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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH 2015

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

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LABC CYMRU

WELSH LANGUAGE LETTERS SWELL THE GEM POSTBAG
(See letters on pages 2, 17, 32 and 33)

COUNCIL MERGER IS 'DEAD IN THE WATER'
(SEE STORY ON PAGE 18)

HIGH JINKS AT THE PETERSTON PANTO!

ABOVE: The annual village panto at Peterston-super-Ely was a riotous occasion for songs, jokes, dance and general high jinks! *(SEE PAGE 7)*

The town's recycling bins are on the way out

by PHILIP IRWIN

COWBRIDGE is to lose its two small recycling sites next week, when bins at The Butts and behind the town hall will be taken away.

The Vale Council is citing problems with fly tipping at the sites as a major factor.

Ironically, earlier this month, The GEM carried a letter and photograph from a local resident, showing fly tipping that had taken place at The Butts over the New Year.

The letter asked what the council intended to do about it – and now the bins are to be removed!

In fact, the decision pre-dated that letter – it was taken in November at a Vale Council cabinet meeting, and 17 similar 'bring bank' sites across the Vale were dispensed with at the same time.

The council's director of visible services, Miles Punter, explained: "Since co-mingled recycling collections were introduced, the bring bank sites have generally made up less than one per cent of the overall dry recycling tonnage collected per annum.

"In addition, in recent years, bring sites have suffered from fly-tipping and other abuse, requiring them to be regularly cleansed by the council's waste management team, representing an additional cost and workload".

The Vale Council believes that residents can use the existing kerbside recycling service instead.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

ABOVE: Bin and gone!

Tensions on the taxi rank in Cowbridge

TENSIONS on the taxi rank in Cowbridge have led to three prosecutions by the Vale Council's licensing authority.

Triggering the taxi turf war has been a number of taxis licensed in Bridgend picking up customers in the town, and taking them to Barry or Cardiff.

John Lewis, of JD Cars in Cowbridge, told The GEM that there had been a great deal of tension over the issue, as Bridgend taxis do not hold a Vale licence.

He said: "Vale taxi drivers have no problem with Bridgend taxis bringing people to Cowbridge, and then taking them home." He stated that the trouble was caused by taxis waiting in Cowbridge, in the hope of picking up fares to Cardiff or elsewhere in the Vale.

He pointed out that there were insurance issues that members of the public would be unaware of.

The Vale Council's public protection services team leader, Mandy Ewington, said: "Following information received from Vale of Glamorgan Taxi Drivers, the Licensing Section set up an operation in Cowbridge in June 2014."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'We are proud of our native language…'

WE would like to thank and congratulate The GEM on its initiative in publishing occasional pages in Welsh.

This is a valuable addition to the services the paper offers its community. It further reflects the growth in the use of the Welsh language in Cowbridge schools, societies, women's organisations, musical groups and social circles.

The anonymous, intolerant letter writer of January 22 asserts that Cowbridge and the Vale "has always been an oasis of Englishness." The historical reality is that Welsh and English have co-existed in the area since Norman times.

Currently, the use of Welsh is on the increase, as demonstrated by the popularity of Welsh medium education and the high numbers of fluent young people. This promises well for a bi-lingual future.

We would urge the anonymous letter writer to make him/herself more aware of the numerous formal and informal groups in Cowbridge who meet and socialise in Welsh.

We invite her/him to join us in the Cwtsh Bar of The Bear any Friday morning. There he or she will find a mixture of Welsh speakers and Welsh learners – Cowbridge people proud of their native language,

We are delighted that The GEM seeks to serve all sections of its public – even in the face of ill-informed prejudice.

George Crabb, Deborah Davies, Ann Evans, Jean Lloyd, Jean Roderick, Gareth Thomas , Nigel Thomas, Rhiannon Williams.

'Wales is bilingual'

WHEN The GEM was delivered to my door last week, I was looking forward to reading the Welsh page: it was with sadness I read The GEM had been attacked for publishing it!

Wales is a bilingual country with both Welsh and English spoken and I am pleased The GEM has been inclusive in publishing in both languages.

The anonymous person who wrote the letter may be reminded that today's society is about inclusion and diversity and with the tone of language used in their letter, he or she could be termed 'racist'.

Cowbridge and the Vale have both Welsh and English-speaking families, and people like myself who are learning the language. I know my grandfather, who was Welsh, would be proud of me learning the language.

I sincerely hope you do continue publishing the Welsh page and not pander to an anonymous letter from a very bigoted person.

(***Name and address supplied***)

A 'BRITISH' language

THANK you for your balanced and reasonable reply to the anonymous writer who complained about having Welsh in your excellent paper.

As it stands, the Welsh language is a British language and a part of its heritage. Maybe 'anonymous' is a descendant of one of the three commissioners of the Blue Books of 1847, and their mindset has not progressed!

Aled Hughes,
Llantwit Major.

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The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

The anonymous letter writer who lambasted The GEM for publishing a page in Welsh last week, accusing us of "pandering to a minority", provoked a huge response from readers, who have swelled the Editor's postbag – and all, without exception, expressed support for this newspaper's stance.

'Why should anyone object to me learning my country's language?'

UNLIKE the anonymous writer in last week's GEM letters page, I'm happy to give my name. I partially agree with some of the comments made in that letter; Cowbridge is a nice town and I'm very happy to live near here.

Whether it is "special", I don't know. I visit many other nice towns in south Wales – Llantwit Major, Crickhowell, Brecon, Abergavenny, Llandeilo – all very pleasant places.

The writer says it's "successful". If he or she means that there are expensive houses in the area, Maseratis, Ferraris, BMWs, Mercedes, etc, parked along the High Street, then yes, it is a successful town.

But doesn't this disprove the writer's view that people are moving away from the area for a better "lifestyle and a better education"? And I know that parents still move into the Cowbridge Comprehensive School catchment area for the benefit of their children's education.

However, my real disagreement with this mysterious writer is with his aggression towards Welsh speakers and the language – which, by the way, is older than English. Two years ago (at the age of 66) I started learning Welsh.

Having been born and bred in Pontypridd, and moving to Llysworney 28 years ago, I suddenly became more aware and proud of my Welsh nationality and decided to learn my country's language. (Why on earth would anyone object to this?)

I'm now in my second year and I attend three classes each week; one in Cowbridge town and two in Bridgend. The classes are very well attended, with a mixture of English people who moved to this area for work reasons, and others who are Welsh born and bred.

In the Cowbridge class, the split is approximately 80 per cent English 20 per cent Welsh. I know that some of the students are in their sixth year, so it's obviously an ongoing project.

Of my 80 per cent English classmates in Cowbridge, at least half are mothers in their 20s/30s with children attending the Welsh school.

This was the free choice of the English parents and because of this, the mothers have also decided to learn Welsh. Not for business or for professional reasons, but because they think it's a good thing to do – perhaps just as one might if moving to France, for example.

Since I started my classes, I'm surprised actually how much Welsh is spoken around town. Perhaps our writer would like to know that every week the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge has coffee mornings for Welsh speakers, that until very recently a local café used Welsh with its customers (it has now changed hands).

A dress shop in the town has a Welsh-speaking proprietor, and if they were to visit the Waitrose coffee shop, one will often hear Welsh spoken at the different tables.

So, I don't think that Cowbridge is any more or less "special" for the number of Welsh or non-Welsh speaking people that live here – that's just the way it is – live with it!

Michael Tough,
Llysworney.

'Welsh is going from strength-to-strength'

MAY I congratulate The GEM and Menter Iaith Bro Morgannwg, on the new collaboration with regard to the Welsh language pages in the newspaper.

It's great that The GEM is so inclusive and mindful of the needs of the local Welsh community.

It's a progressive attitude that is so important for many of us – Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers alike.

The Welsh language is going from strength-to-strength, both in Cowbridge and in the Vale as a whole. The fact that two new Welsh medium primary schools have been opened in recent years, and with the doubling in size of Ysgol Gwaun y Nant currently under way, shows how valued the language is locally, and how demand for it has grown.

How sad to read the anonymous letter sent to The GEM last week, and to note how out of touch the writer clearly is with the goodwill that is now shown towards the language from many sectors of our community.

Diolch i chi yn y Gem am arwain y ffordd ac am eich gweledigaeth parthed y Gymraeg.

SE Jones,
Llantrithyd.

'Why does the Welsh language arouse such angry feelings?'

I REFER to the letter in last week's issue attacking The GEM for publishing an article in Welsh.

In a modern, tolerant society, diversity should be welcomed and the needs of different sections of the community recognised.

The GEM should be applauded for including Welsh language articles, because it enables certain members of the community to read news in their first language and allows schoolchildren studying Welsh, the opportunity to see the language used outside the confines of the classroom.

Why an article published in the Welsh language should arouse such fury is puzzling; but no less so than the views of previous correspondents to your newspaper who have raged at bilingual road signs or supermarket signs saying '*Croeso*' (*Welcome*).

It is difficult to understand such intolerance, and you are left wondering what it is about the beautiful and beleaguered Welsh language that conjures up quite so much anger in those who cannot tolerate its existence.

Huw Lloyd,
Aberthin.

'Proud to speak Welsh language'

I AM writing to you in reply to the letter that an anonymous reader sent in about an article being published in Welsh (The GEM, January 22).

I am a 16-year-old fluent Welsh speaker and have been since being able to talk. I am proud of this. Welsh is a language that many people cannot speak and as a young person, I feel fortunate to have this ability.

I cannot comprehend people's problem with the Welsh language. It is part of our legacy and tradition. It is, of course, a personal decision to speak the language or not – I will always respect that decision.

However, it is insulting that someone would be so rude as to mock this unique part of what makes us all Welsh. I could never go to another country, live there and insult its culture.

The Welsh language shouldn't have a negative effect at all. At my Welsh medium comprehensive, there are always outstanding GCSE and A Level results every year. Not to mention many previous pupils securing places at top universities.

If you do not want to read an article that's in Welsh, you don't have to. You are free to skip the page.

Although we all have the freedom to voice our opinion, I would appreciate if it was in a polite and respectful manner. Not as an unnecessary mockery.

Rydw i'n falch i allu siarad yr iaith Gymraeg.

Cerys Evans

'Breathtaking ignorance'

I HAVE just read the letter printed in The GEM, presumably from someone in Cowbridge, regarding the use of the Welsh language in your publication.

Surely this was written in jest, as it displays such breathtaking ignorance, that I cannot believe it has been written with any serious intent – and certainly not by anyone who is actually Welsh.

The claims made in the letter are so laughably ludicrous that it is no wonder it was sent in anonymously; no one in their right mind would want to expose themselves to the sort of ridicule that the espousing of such stupidly distorted thinking would generate.

I'm certain that the vast majority of your readers, including non-Welsh speakers, of whom I am also one, applaud your inclusion of a page in our native language and would urge you to continue for as long as you remain in business.

Peter Smith,
Porthcawl.

• SEE MORE LETTERS ON THIS TOPIC, AND OTHERS, ON PAGES 17, 32, 33.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL FEBRUARY 5)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
29 Thur	00.57	8.1	13.36	7.9
30 Fri	02.15	8.0	14.54	7.9
31 Sat	03.32	8.1	16.06	8.2
01 Sun	04.33	8.6	17.01	8.7
02 Mon	05.27	9.0	17.53	9.1
03 Tues	06.11	9.3	18.21	9.5
04 Wed	06.46	9.6	19.06	9.4
05 Thur	07.22	9.7	19.35	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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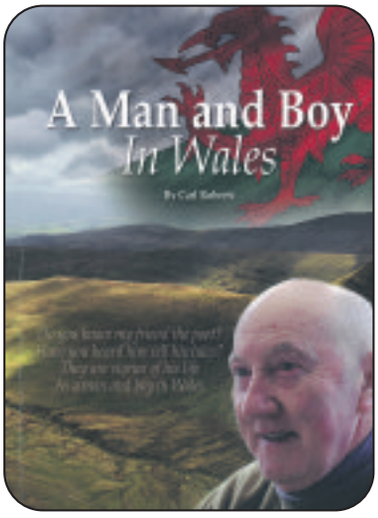
Carl evokes memories of a Welsh past with a volume of poems



ABOVE: Carl's book.

A former carpenter has published his own book of poems celebrating Welsh life and culture over more than half a century.

by GEM REPORTER

Carl Roberts, aged 71, has lived in Pontyclun since 1968 and grew up in Pontypridd.

He explained: "I've loved poetry since I was a boy – in school I was top in English and poor in maths.

"My poems reflect growing up in south Wales and aspects of Welsh life."

Carl's verse evokes memories of childhood, family connections and evens travels further afield.

In the 1970s, he played with a band called 'Lock, Stock and Barrel' specialising in musical comedy. With another band, he performed in front of 2,000 GIs in Frankfurt just before they were due to leave for Vietnam.

Professinally, he worked as a carpenter and for 10 years was employed by a maintenance company at Parc Prison.

From 1975-85, he and his wife Valerie owned the fruit and veg shop in Pontyclun. All these experiences have been distilled into a volume 'A Man and Boy in Wales'.

If people are interested in purchasing a copy (£6) they can contact Carl on 01443 237695; there are also copies available in Pencil Case, Eastgate, Cowbridge, too.

Carl said: "One of my favourite poems is 'Closing Down. It makes my wife cry because her father was a miner."

CLOSING DOWN

He came out of the shower
And slammed his locker door
They wouldn't see old Charlie
In the lamp room any more
And fifty-three just like him
Didn't like the news a bit
The notice on the wall said
They're closing down the pit

His heavy boots redundant
His torn cap needed mending
This didn't really matter now
His final shift was ending
He touched the blue scar on his head
Where once the flesh had split
And read the notice on the wall
They're closing down the pit

He read the names in silence
He'd known each one from birth
Side by side they'd toiled
Inside the bowels of the earth
He felt the valley dying
His anger made him spit
Old Charlie's on the scrap heap now
They're closing down the pit

ABOVE: As a young man, Carl (left) played with a band called 'Lock, Stock and Barrel.'

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, January 29 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall.

The speaker will be Joseph Atkin, Aberglasney head gardener, who will talk on 'Mediterranean Plants'.

PWJ

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Speaker tells WI of wildlife in high Arctic

FOLLOWING a very enjoyable post-Christmas evening meal in The Market Place, Cowbridge, on January 8, a good number of Bont Faen WI members turned up despite dreadful weather on January 15 to welcome back Cardiff wildlife speaker, Dr Al Venables.

After sharing his Antarctic research experiences on board a cruise ship with us in 2013, we now learned of his adventures in the Arctic. This cruise took in the Spitsbergen archipelago, the whole area quite inhospitable, with glaciers and bare rocky screes covered by only 10 per cent of vegetation.

In the 17th and 18th centuries there was a great culling of whales, walrus, seals, arctic foxes and polar bears for the popular trades of blubber, ivory and furs. Now the much depleted natural wildlife can be photographed from a safe distance, with a professional polar bear spotter walking well ahead of visitors to ensure their safety.

Al explained that this area was popular with mining companies for coal and minerals in the late 19th century, with evidence still quite visible. Disputes often arose because the land was unclaimed by any government at that time but in 1905 Norway achieved independence from Sweden and claimed sovereignty by international treaty in 1920.

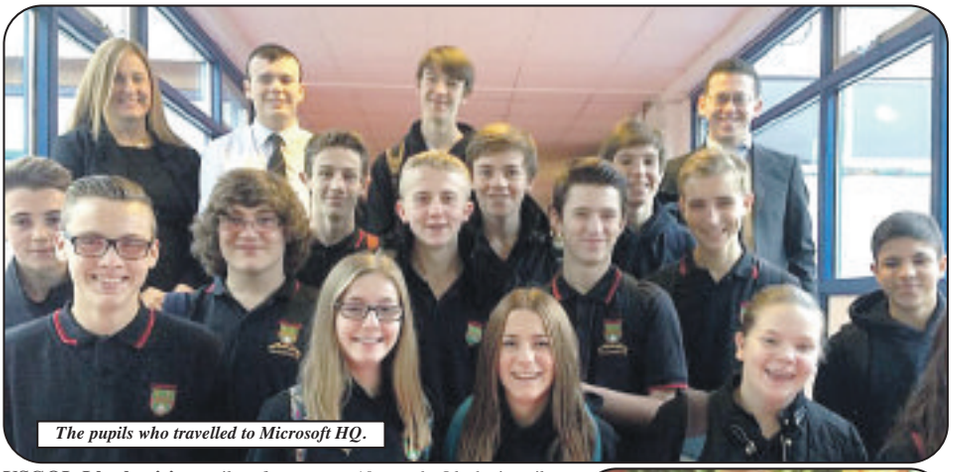
Al returned to his love of wildlife with beautiful illustrations of Arctic terns, barnacle geese, the centre for dog excursions, and eider ducks nesting nearby.

At Woodfjord Al came across Brent geese, purple sandpiper, and tufts of saxifrage. From offshore in the inflatable Zodiac boat a polar bear was spotted walking along the shoreline, and shortly afterwards a female with her cub.

Bad weather forced a change of location to catch sight of thousands of Little Auks nesting, the smallest of Arctic birds.

JH

YSGOL LLANHARI PUPILS PROVE MASTERS OF I.T.



The pupils who travelled to Microsoft HQ.

YSGOL Llanhari is establishing itself as a Microsoft Academy of IT excellence, and pupils and teachers have won awards for their ground-breaking work.

At the end of the Christmas term, talented pupils from year-10 visited the Microsoft headquarters in Reading to compete in a Rhondda Cynon Taf competition.

Out of the 30 highest achievers in the authority, 19 of them were Ysgol Llanhari pupils and on the day, five out of the nine available awards were won by Llanhari pupils.

In addition to this success, pupils were invited to take part in a conference in the Vale Hotel at Hensol in January to promote their work as Microsoft Office specialists.

Year-10 pupils Beca Ellis, Rhys Rubery, Llew Lloyd and Morgan McCarthy were commended for the high quality of their presentation and their polished delivery to an audience of representatives from Microsoft, Rhondda Cynon Taf headteachers and officers from the authority.

They detailed the way in which the software, under the guidance of Mr Paul Greene and Miss Vicky Mann from the IT Department, has raised the standard of the pupils' digital work. We eagerly anticipate further developments and look forward to welcoming visitors from Microsoft in the United States in the near future to see the work undertaken by the pupils.

MT

Mr Paul Greene receiving an award.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tyneuydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

O-Dear, What Can The Matter Be?

DRIVING along the Pencoed-Pentre Meurig Road last week, I became aware of the amount of rubbish which has accumulated on the grass verges.

It really has become an eyesore, what has become of the personnel who were engaged to do this work?

Drive along the same road towards Ruthin Common and the scene will change – not a scrap of paper or bottle will be seen.

This is because Coun Keith Jones continues to keep the road between the Ruthin Chapel and the motorway bridge clear of rubbish.

A big thank you to Keith for continuing this unenviable task.

How Cardiff Airport can really take off

I READ with interest Dr Alex Rees's letter in The GEM edition of January 15 and I agree with all she has commented on.

Having visited Auckland Airport on many occasions and used the mini bus shuttle to the CBD, it is a good swift service at an affordable price. Cardiff could do the same, a 12 or 15 seater would be sufficient.

Expanding Dr Rees's comments on attracting low cost carriers to use the airport, the management of the airport, plus the owners (viz the Welsh Government) should contact all the airlines that fly to and from the eastern seaboard of North America to suggest that they terminate their incoming flights at Cardiff, and also start their outgoing flights from Cardiff.

What are the advantages? By avoiding the congestion at Heathrow, passengers can be transferred to the First Great Western train service to London Paddington. Transfer the passengers by coach to Cardiff Central Station and let them board the hourly service that the train company provides.

Let the airlines group together and charter trains from First Great Western to start at Rhoose station straight to London Paddington. Then they can bus the passengers to Rhoose Station.

The reverse can happen for outbound flights with check-in counters at London Paddington to take the passengers' checked in baggage straight to Cardiff Airport.

There would also be check-in counters at the airport for those wishing to travel separately.

What will this do? Relieve the pressure on Heathrow and perhaps save the building of a third runway if agreed by all interested parties, by freeing up quite a number of slots at Heathrow.

It would give a tourism boost to Wales as the tourist board will have a great opportunity to promote the attractions and countryside of Wales.

This possible solution could very well attract low cost airlines.

With BA maintenance business already based at the airport, they may like to expand their service to looking after other airlines' aircraft requiring short term maintenance while waiting to fly back to America.

This may sound pie in the sky, but when you start to look at the logistics of such a move, it could prove advantageous in more ways than one.

John A Mason, Barry.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council
(ACCESS FOOTPATH (PART) DRUIDS GREEN COWBRIDGE) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2015

On the 29th January 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

The Order will come into force on 5th February 2015 and will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Access Footpath (Part) Druid's Green Cowbridge) (Temporary Closure) Order 2015.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 5th February 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall proceed on foot in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	The footpath that extends between the rear of numbers 38 to 44 Druids Green (northern side of these houses), Cowbridge,
Reason	To allow essential sewer works to be undertaken.
Duration	From 07.30 am on Thursday 5th February 2015 for a maximum of Three Months although it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 13th March 2015.
Alt Route	Diversions for pedestrians shall be maintained via the remaining open sections of Druids Green.

Dated this 29th day of January 2015

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014
GORCHYMYN (CAU DROS DRO) (LLWYBR TROED MYNEDIAD I DRUIDS' GREEN Y BONT-FAEN (RHAN YN UNIG))

Ar 29 Ionawr 2015 yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod:

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 5 Chwefror 2015, a chaiff ei adnabod fel 'Gorchymyn (Cau Dros Dro) (Llwybr Troed Mynediad i Druids' Green Y Bont-faen (Rhan yn unig)) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod wedi methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 5 Chwefror 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN 1

1. No person shall proceed on foot in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad	Y rhan o'r llwybr troed y tu cefn i dai Druids' Green yn y Bont-faen sy'n rhedeg rhwng rhifau 38 a 44 (ar ochr ogleddol y tai hynny).
Rheswm	Er mwyn i waith hanfodol gael ei wneud ar y carthffosydd.
	Cyfnod O 07.30 ar fore dydd Iau 5 Chwefror 2015 am dri mis yn unig, er y rhagwelir y bydd y gwaith wedi'i gwblhau erbyn 13 Mawrth 2015.
Llwybr arall	Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, bydd cerddwyr yn cael eu hailgyfeirio drwy'r rhannau o Druids' Green sy'n dal ar agor.

Dyddiedig 29 Ionawr 2015

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

Pupils' chance to brush up on their Welsh at Llantwit!

CHILDREN from the reception class at Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, Llantwit Major recently visited the town centre where they took part in a food hunt at Filco, taking photographs of the things that they discovered.

They also took a shopping list that had been written in the classroom, and bought ingredients ready to prepare a tasty treat in class.

Next the children visited Coast Café and were treated by Miss Samuel to a soft drink and delicious tea cakes. They were also able to talk to staff about the menu. This helped the class recreate a café back in the classroom, which included deciding on a price list, different menus and writing order books. They have also been thinking of 'wow' words to describe certain foods.

The children had great fun, as well as having the opportunity to practice their table manners and use of the Welsh language, while conversing with the shop and café owners. A great morning was had by all!

RS

TIME TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT IN COWBRIDGE?

by GEM REPORTER

AROUND 15 years ago, The GEM campaigned for a 20mph speed limit in Cowbridge.

It was something the police looked into, but a decision to reduce the limit from the prevailing 30mph was never made.

Is it time to revisit the argument? Residents often observe motorists driving at speed, particularly as they leave town at the Eastgate end.

How often do pedestrians have to suddenly abort an attempt to cross the road because of a vehicle hurtling along in excess of 30mph? And the same applies to cars coming out of turnings and side roads. There is no Pelican crossing all the way from the Edmondes Arms to the town hall.

Pedestrians are naturally going to want to make their way from one side of the road to the other at points between those two locations. It appears increasingly hazardous

We want to know what the people of Cowbridge and the surrounding area think.

Should the speed limit be reduced to 20mph in Cowbridge, or part of it? Perhaps you think 30mph is about right? Let us know your views.

Please write to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk or by ordinary mail to the address given on page 2

A stark choice for Anne Boleyn!

PRESIDENT Fran Mitchell welcomed back members of St Nicholas Women's Institute after the Christmas holiday and introduced speaker for the evening, Janet Young from Culverhouse Cross WI.

"Would you prefer to be burned at the stake, or have your head chopped off?"

Janet certainly grabbed everyone's attention and did not let go until she had told us the story of Anne Boleyn and her marriage to King Henry VIII.

We learned of her background, an educated girl coming from a diplomatic family; she was feisty, outspoken and had many accomplishments.

Having been sent by her father to the royal court, she soon caught the attention of the king, who was completely bewitched by her. Henry divorced Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne, who gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, but there was to be no male heir.

Eventually, the king tired of her, many of the court turned against her, accusing her of adultery and witchcraft. She was found guilty of treason and so had to make that fateful choice.

After refreshments, our normal business followed. The various resolutions proposed for this year's AGM in London were discussed by members and a decision made on which one to support.

The cup for the most successful entries in the monthly competition was presented to June Pugsley. We also discussed the creation of a scrapbook to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the NFWI, which falls this year.

We meet again on Thursday, February 5 in St Nicholas Church Hall and new members are always welcome.

WML

Understanding 'Charge of the Light Brigade'

JANUARY'S meeting of Pontfaen Probus Club was addressed by Group Captain (Retd) Ron Powell, who gave an illustrated talk on 'The Charge of the Light Brigade'.

While all will recognise that this dealt with the Crimean War in 1854, Group Captain Powell's deeply researched talk and vivid presentation gave members a fuller awareness of the reasons for Britain's involvement so far away from home.

The contribution of relationships between individual commanders and their inadequate communication methods led to the well-known outcome of this war.

While we may now study this part of our history with the benefit of hindsight, we were left wondering whether more might have been learnt in time for the outbreak of the Great War.

The club is formed of members coming from professional or business backgrounds who are now semi or fully retired. If any readers are in these categories and are interested in learning more of the Pontfaen Club, please contact its secretary, Colin Wilson on 01656 860498. The forthcoming February meeting will be the Club's AGM to be followed by a brief presentation by past president, Mr David Crompton.

GH

Lions are looking forward to 2015!

THE recent busy festive season saw Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions club supporting the 2014 Cowbridge Reindeer Parade, during which the Lions provided stewarding, a charity bucket collection, looked after Santa in his Grotto as well as running a burger stall.

This was a great success, with wonderful weather and huge crowds. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended more than £2,000 was raised – well up on 2013.

A week after the Reindeer Parade, the Lions were out with their burger stall again – this time at the Llantwit Major Christmas lights.

Both events raised funds for the Lions Club to distribute to good causes, including the Vale Big Wrap, Cowbridge Gateway Monday Club, Vale Food Bank, Barnardo's, Samaritans, Diabetes UK, Salvation Army and Cowbridge Rotary.

The Lions are now planning for 2015 - the next big event is the 2015 Cowbridge May Fair, which will take place on the Bear Field, May 4. Arrangements are well underway; it will be very similar to the hugely successful 2013 May Fair and demand for stalls and stage slots is expected to be high.

If you would like to take part please contact Llantwit Major & Cowbridge Lions on 0845 833 6763; info@lmandclions.org.uk; via the website, Facebook or Twitter. All of the above events are good examples of those in which Lions are involved where the local community can come together and have fun, and at the same time raise money for good causes.

Llantwit Major & Cowbridge Lions would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supports these events and look forward to seeing you during 2015.

JW

It's eyes down for Cowbridge bingo!

OUR Christmas bingo, went with a bang – literally, with Christmas crackers, while the men looked ridiculous in their paper hats, and the girls looked absolutely charming.

The first line of the first house was won by Janet, with a record amount. Her husband, Rob, also managed to win a raffle.

The main raffle prizes were kindly donated by The Bush at St. Hilary. The ticket was drawn by Edwina, the raffle queen, and to everyone's surprise it was won by me!

In my usual generous fashion, I said: "*I couldn't possibly accept it*", and handed it back to be won by one of our Poppy Ladies, Linda Jones.

When she goes to that famous hostelry, she will be warmly greeted by the lovely Liz, and the sumptuous food will be prepared by her husband Andy, who will be 'handy' in the kitchen.

I am now back to full strength.

The food prepared by the ladies was, as usual, superb.

Our new season starts on Thursday, February 5 at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, so why not join us?

We will be having a VIP visit from the Mayor and his wife.

The usual succulent food will be prepared by the ladies, but you are asked to provide your own wine.

Basil Watkins

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for January 26:

1st Mike Best & David Birt 71.97%,

2nd Jane Brook & David Barwood 71.30%,

3rd Alan Lewis & Terry Evans 63.43%.

Romantic quiz

ST Hilary Church is organising a St Valentine's Day quiz and curry night in the Village Hall at 7pm on Saturday, February 14 for teams of up to eight (or join a group on the night).

For tickets, contact Simon Lait on 01446 771842; simonlait@aol.com; Mary Llewellyn (07800974527) or Gill Harris at Sorrento, Cowbridge (07714961182).

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Photographs by MIKE WILCOCK

Bishop inspires new members of Church in Wales fellowship

ON Sunday, January 18, Holy Cross Church celebrated 20 people being confirmed into the fellowship of the Church in Wales, which is part of the world wide Anglican Communion.

It was also the occasion to welcome two Roman Catholics into the Fellowship of the Church in Wales.

Nine of the candidates were from Colwinston Church in Wales Primary School, one from the parish of Radyr in Cardiff and the rest from the Benefice of Cowbridge.

The Church was packed with over 150 people. St Hilary Choir sang and a wonderful confirmation cake was shared with all present. Mrs Sue Freeland, who is a professional cake decorator, supplied the cake. A finger buffet followed the Confirmation.

In his address the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, the Right Reverend David Wilbourne said: "At heart, the Christian faith is about Jesus being the love of your life. I believe he is the most loving, loveable, human yet broken man ever to grace God's earth.

"He made the blind see and the deaf hear and the lame walk and raised the dead, and went to a gruelling death himself to show how far the One whose very name is Love is prepared to go.

"Our candidates tonight are standing in the midst of this large congregation, effectively declaring, '*Jesus is the love of my life.*' I am here representing the Church throughout the world and throughout the ages simply to say, 'Good on you!' and to lay my hands on their heads to confirm that God's spirit is with them, with my heartfelt prayer that God will bless them throughout their lives as they walk beside Jesus and he walks beside them."

The service of confirmation and welcome marks the beginning of full participation and commitment in the life of the Anglican Church

.All of the candidates underwent a course of preparation that introduced them to the key elements of the Christian faith and how this relates to their everyday lives.

Canon Derek Belcher, the Rector of Cowbridge said " There was quite a mixture of young people and adults at the confirmation. One could clearly see that their faces shone with the joy of the occasion, and the love of Jesus as their friend and guide in their lives."

How 1940s house was transformed into an eco-efficient home...

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A Penarth man has carried out an 'energy efficient upgrade' to a detached house, built in the 1940s, and believes his yearly energy bills could end up as low as £500.

Nigel Humphrey, an architectural designer, said that prior to the upgrade, the house was hopelessly inefficient.

It was being heated with an ageing gas boiler and old radiators. Pipes that ran between the living area and the attic were lagged with old newspapers dating back to 1975!

The aluminium double glazed windows installed decades earlier were leaky and prone to condensation. There were also air bricks everywhere, open to the cavity which had no insulation.

Nigel explained: "The renovation took 10 months and we've now moved in.

"The total energy cost for the house is on track to meet the planned £500 for the year with zero carbon emissions.

"Heating the place before must have cost a fortune and produced huge clouds of CO2."

He explained that a crucial factor in efficient heating of a house is to cut down on drafts. The volume of air in a house can change from between five and 10 times an hour – and it all has to be reheated.

Nigel's renovation and improvement works have cut down the change in volume of air to between a volume of half and two an hour.

"We decided to replace all external doors and windows with well sealed triple glazed units, to insulate the cavity walls and attic, install an air source heat pump, solar PV panels, and panel wall heating in the existing house.

"Under-floor heating was installed in the extension. The new extension was built with super-insulated timber walls, and roof lights positioned to collect heat and energy from the sun as well as providing high levels of daylight to the centre of the house.

"Next, we needed to gain as much free (solar) and renewable energy as possible, from the PV panels on the roof, and through the windows, rooflights and the conservatory."

Nigel got grants for work to the cavity walls and attic. He also installed an 'air source heat pump' which takes heat from the air and boosts it to a higher temperature.

"Not only do we get the 'Feed In Tariff' of 14p/kWh, estimated to be earn about £250 a year, we also get payments from the 'renewable heat incentive' for the air source heat pump.

"The renewable energy costs, therefore, for all space and water heating, lighting, appliances, and cooking are about £500 for the year. Because all the energy used is from renewable sources the CO2 production is zero."

Nigel relaxing in his Penarth eco-home.

The long overdue renovation of the house cost approximately £38,500, but it is now 'eco-fit' for decades to come.

Last week, *Casualty* was being filmed at Nigel's house. The storyline? Someone getting carbon monoxide poisoning from a gas boiler. Something of an irony since Nigel has disconnected the gas!

Nigel is happy to discuss his project with people who are interested: tel: 02920 709565; or go to www.mas.eu.com.

Love in the air at Cylch Meithrin Y Bont Faen!

THE popular Cylch Meithrin Y Bont Faen held a fundraising coffee morning last Saturday (January 24) at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge.

The theme was Dydd Santes Dwynwen and there were plenty of heart-shaped balloons and fresh Welsh cakes in the shape of hearts.

There was also a display of the children's work and a craft area where the children could make St Dwynwen's cards.

The children had made heart shaped chocolates to sell which proved to be a real hit.

The event was well supported by parents and members of the community, with over £200 being raised for the Cylch Meithrin.

The staff and committee of the Cylch would like to offer our thanks to everyone who attended and made the event a success. Cylch Meithrin Y Bont Faen is a Welsh medium pre-school based in the Broadshoard, Cowbridge.

Children over the age of two can attend morning sessions five days a week and wrap-around care is provided for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in the afternoons.

The Cylch relies heavily on fundraising and donations in order to maintain our wonderful setting. Keep an eye out for our next fundraising venture!

CR

Barry man (28) used wheelbrace in attack

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MAN attempted to commit suicide in his car after carrying out an assault when armed with a wheelbrace, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Christopher Mitchell (28) had "worked himself up" before the incident, said prosecutor Tony Trigg.

Mitchell of Amelia Trust Farm, Barry, admitted possessing an offensive weapon, and assaulting Mikey Jones.

He was jailed for 14 weeks, but was released immediately, as he had spent several weeks in custody.

Mr Trigg said Mitchell had had a relationship with Donna Huxtable, but it had not worked out.

On November 1, She was staying with a nephew, Mr Jones, in the Cogan area.

Mitchell was not welcome there.

He turned up at the house and was let in by Miss Huxtable. When Mr Jones discovered this, he was nonplussed.

Mitchell was removed from the premises but from then on, said Mr Trigg, he had worked himself up.

On November 2, he went to the house, pushed past Miss Huxtable and entered Mr Jones's bedroom and hit him on the leg.

He shouted: "I'm going to kill you."

Mitchell left the house and he was later discovered in his car attempting to commit suicide by gassing himself and taking an overdose of tablets, the prosecution said.

In a witness impact statement, Miss Huxtable said she was now afraid to stay in the house alone.

She said she did not want a restraining order made in respect of the defendant.

His counsel, Carl Williams, said he had been on remand several weeks, there were good references and work was open to him.

Judge Neil Bidder QC said: "You took offence at the victim's involvement. The next day you barged into the house, went into the bedroom and struck Mr Jones through the duvet three or four times.

"Had Miss Huxtable not intervened, you would have continued.

"You were in a very emotional state and attempted to kill yourself."

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £80.

PETERSTON VILLAGERS PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS FOR THEIR PANTO TREAT!

Photographs by IAN DIXON

THE Peterston-super-Ely entertainment society presented its annual pantomime over three nights, January 15-17 in the community church hall.

Each performance was played to a packed house and the audiences thoroughly enjoyed an evening of songs, jokes, dance and general high jinks – perhaps aided by a bar and refreshment stall.

This most professional production, with brilliant costumes and scenery, was directed by Helen Timms, scripted by Alan P Frayn and performed by an excellent and enthusiastic cast.

ID

Taxi tensions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The team leader continued: "As a result of this operation, three Bridgend taxi drivers were prosecuted by the Vale Council for operating outside their authority's area.

"Members of the public are reminded for their own safety to always pre-book a taxi or make sure that the taxi they are getting into is a Vale of Glamorgan taxi.

"Taxis from outside the Vale of Glamorgan area will not be insured to carry passengers, unless the taxi is pre-booked.

"All Vale of Glamorgan taxis are tested every six months, every four months for older vehicles, and all Vale of Glamorgan taxi drivers hold an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Certificate.

"If members of the public have any concerns regarding drivers of vehicles, we ask that they contact the council on 01446 709105 or by email at Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk."

Recycling bins to go

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr Punter said: "We hope our residents will understand our reasons for removing these sites. Whilst we clearly need to reuse and recycle more and more material, continuing to collect sub-standard recycling loads coupled with ever increasing site clearance costs was simply not sustainable.

"It should be noted that in most cases, these bring sites were introduced a long time ago, before the introduction of the current recycling arrangements.

"As residents are never more than seven days away from a kerbside recycling collection, there should be little need for them now.

"If residents do need to dispose of additional recycling, then our household waste recycling facilities in Barry and Llandow are available. The added benefit with these sites is that staff are available at all times, both to advise residents and also to prevent any incidence of fly-tipping."

A council spokesman said: "The Vale Council, like all councils in the UK, is facing significant financial pressure due to cuts in public sector funding. Around £32 million needs to be saved over the next three years.

"The bring bank sites have seen a large increase in fly tipping and abuse, which has led to an increase in enforcement and clean-up costs".

The cabinet member for environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, said: "Problems at the bring bank sites have resulted in up to five tonnes of fly tipping being removed each week, with many loads of recycling having to be landfilled due to contamination."

The Barry Recycling Centre at the Atlantic Trading Estate will be open from 10am to 4pm in winter, and in summer from 8am to 6pm.

The Llandow Recycling Centre on Llandow Industrial Estate is also open from 10am to 4pm in winter, and in the summer from 10am to 5pm.

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'Employment is booming, but much more to do in the Vale'

Vale MP **Alun Cairns** reports to GEM readers

AS I write this column, there are 100 days to go until the general election. Since 2010, the Conservative Government has worked hard to turn the economy around – the job is far from finished and there is much more we have to do in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Across the Vale, employment is booming, and I have met many of the businesses that have seen significant growth and created many jobs.

The number of unemployed claimants is 418 lower than at the same point last year, and continues to fall significantly.

That means another 418 local families in the Vale are benefiting from the security of a regular wage.

I fully expect this trend to continue in 2015 and into 2016.

Nationally, 1.75 million more people are in employment since 2010 and the 760,000 new businesses have the ability to transform many communities.

The UK Government is doing more: from April, the employment allowance means that businesses recruiting staff can save up to £2,000 on employers' National Insurance bills.

This scheme has been uniformly welcomed at the businesses I have met around the Vale.

The economy grew at 2.6 per cent in 2014 – the best year of growth since 2007 and the fastest growing G7 economy. The growth combined with a major reduction in income taxes and improved communications has resulted in a fertile environment for job creation in the Vale of Glamorgan.

A new business needs lower taxes, skilled employees and fast communications – this is something I have pressed for since my election in 2010.

In many parts of the Vale, broadband speeds and mobile phone reception have improved significantly and more areas will be coming on line in 2015.

There are still a number of 'not-spots' and I am in regular communication with network providers.

The Government is committed to ensuring areas that need better broadband and mobile phone reception in the rural Vale are prioritised.

NHS

There are significant challenges for the NHS in Wales. The need for a solution to patients missing out on vital drugs by way of a cancer drugs fund is clear to me: £123m has been provided to the Welsh Government in extra funding and this should be used for providing service that makes a difference to the lives of patients.

The answer, however, is not just about funding.

The Welsh Government has controlled health since 1999, and I think most observers would agree that it wasn't supposed to turn out like this.

This newspaper has highlighted many of the disturbing cases of unfairness and lack of care – it is only right that we draw attention to cases when care falls short of expectations.

We are working through the long term economic plan to transform the economy – reducing the deficit means we can continue to invest by living within our means.

We can only build on the progress we have made in securing the recovery if we have a strong economy.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(CLIFF FARM, TREDOGAN ROAD AND CUCKOO MILL LANE, PENMARK) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

1. On 29th January 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Cliff Farm, Tredogan Road and Cuckoo Mill Lane, Penmark) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2015.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location From the junction at grid 304783 169693 at Pancross in a southerly direction to grid 304925 168799 to the south of Cliff Farm.

Reason To allow for the installation of high speed broadband cables.

Duration From 9.00am on Monday 9th February 2015, for a maximum period of 6 months but it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 5.00pm on Monday 2nd March 2015.

Diversions Signed diversions for southbound traffic will be from the point of closure at Pancross, in a south westerly direction through the village of Llancadle, to where this road meets the B4265, then turning left and proceeding in a easterly direction along the B4265 to the junction at grid 305342 168181 then turning left towards Penmark, and proceeding in a north easterly direction to the southern end of the closure, and vice versa for northbound traffic. Access for residents will be maintained from one end of the lane or the other.

Location Tredogan Road, Penmark, from its junction with Croft John for a distance of 30m in an easterly direction.

Reason To allow for the installation of high speed broadband cables.

Duration From 9.00am on Monday 9th February 2015 for a maximum period of 6 months but the works are anticipated to take place between 8.00am on Tuesday 3rd March and 5,00pm on Wednesday 4th March 2015.

Diversions Signed diversions for eastbound traffic will be from the point of closure in a easterly direction along Tredogan Road, then turning left into Kenson Hill, then proceeding in a southerly direction and continuing along this road to the B4265, and turning left, continue along this road to the roundabout where this road meets Tredogan Road, then continue along Tredogan Road to the eastern end of the closure, and vice-versa for westbound traffic.

Location Cuckoo Mill Lane, from its junction with Tredogan Road in a generally north easterly direction to where it meets the access into Curnix Farm.

Reason To allow for the installation of high speed broadband cables.

Duration From 9.00am on Monday 9th February 2015 for a maximum period of 6 months but the works are anticipated to take place between 8.00am on Thursday 5th March 2015 and 5.00pm on Friday 27th March 2015.

Diversions Signed diversions for north eastbound traffic will be from the point of closure in a south easterly direction to the A4226, and continuing in a generally easterly direction to Waycock Cross, then turning left and proceeding along the Five Mile Lane (Waycock Road), then turning left at The Moulton turning, and proceeding along this road though the village of Moulton to the northern end of the closure, and vice versa for southbound traffic. Access for residents will be maintained from one end of the closure or the other.

NB: Pedestrian access will be maintained through these closures.

Dated this 29th day of January 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015

GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) (CLIFF FARM, TREDOGAN ROAD A CUCKOO MILL LANE, PEN-MARC)

1. Ar Ionawr 2015 yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod:

2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel 'Gorchymyn (Cau Ffordd) (Dros Dro) (Cliff Farm, Tredogan Road a Cuckoo Mill Lane, Pen-marc) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015.

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn y lleoliad a bennwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad O'r gyffordd ym mhentref Pancross wrth gyfeirnod grid 304783 169693 hyd at fan wrth gyfeirnod grid 304925 168799 sydd i'r de o Cliff Farm wrth deithio i gyfeiriad y de.

Rheswm Cyfnod Er mwyn gosod ceblau band eang cyflym iawn.

Dargyfeirio O 9.00am ar ddydd Llun 9 Chwefror 2015, am gyfnod o 6 mis ar y mwyaf er y rhagwelir bydd y gwaith wedi'i gwblhau erbyn 5.00pm ar ddydd Llun 2 Mawrth 2015.

Dargyfeirio Gyda chymorth arwyddion, bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r de'n cael ei ddargyfeirio o le y caewyd y ffordd ym mhentref Pancross, i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin, drwy bentref Llancadle, hyd at y gyffordd â'r B4265. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith yn y fan honno, ac yn dilyn y B4265 i gyfeiriad y dwyrain, nes cyrraedd y gyffordd wrth gyfeirnod grid 305342 168181. Bydd wedyn yn troi i'r chwith tua Phen-marc, ac yn symud ymlaen i gyfeiriad y gogledd- ddwyrain nes cyrraedd pen deheuol y darn caeedig. Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r gogledd yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith. Bydd mynediad i drigolion o naill ben y lôn neu'r llall drwy gydol yr amser.

Lleoliad Tredogan Road, Pen-marc, o'r gyffordd â Croft John am 30m i gyfeiriad y dwyrain.

Rheswm Cyfnod Er mwyn gosod ceblau band eang cyflym iawn.

Dargyfeirio O 9.00am ar ddydd Llun 9 Chwefror 2015, am gyfnod o 6 mis ar y mwyaf, er y rhagwelir y bydd y gwaith yn digwydd rhwng 8.00am ar ddydd Mawrth 3 Mawrth a 5.00pm ar ddydd Mercher 4 Mawrth 2015.

Dargyfeirio Gyda chymorth arwyddion, bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r dwyrain yn cael ei ddargyfeirio o le y caewyd y ffordd, i gyfeiriad y dwyrain ar hyd Heol Tredogan. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith i Kenson Hill, ac yn dilyn yr heol honno i gyfeiriad y de nes cyrraedd y B4265. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith wedyn, ac yn parhau i ddilyn yr heol hon nes cyrraedd y gylchfan lle y mae'r heol yn cwrdd â Heol Tredogan. Bydd yn dilyn Heol Tredogan wedyn nes cyrraedd pen dwyreiniol y darn caeedig. Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r gorllewin yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

Lleoliad Cuckoo Mill Lane, o'r gyffordd â Heol Tredogan Road ac ymlaen i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y gogledd-ddwyrain nes cyrraedd y fan lle y mae'r heol yn cwrdd â'r llwybr tua Curnix Farm.

Rheswm Cyfnod Er mwyn gosod ceblau band eang cyflym iawn.

Dargyfeirio O 9.00am ar ddydd Llun 9 Chwefror 2015, am gyfnod o 6 mis ar y mwyaf, er y rhagwelir y bydd y gwaith yn digwydd rhwng 8.00am ar ddydd Iau 5 Mawrth 2015 a 5.00pm ar ddydd Gwener 27 Mawrth 2015.

Dargyfeirio Gyda chymorth arwyddion, bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain yn cael ei ddargyfeirio o'r lle y caewyd y ffordd i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain hyd at yr A4226. Bydd yn symud ymlaen i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y dwyrain nes cyrraedd Waycock Cross, ac yna'n troi i'r chwith ar hyd Five Mile Lane (Waycock Road). Bydd yn troi i'r chwith wrth y troad ar gyfer pentref Moulton, ac yn dilyn y ffordd drwy'r pentref nes cyrraedd pen gogleddol y darn caeedig. Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r de'n dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith. Bydd mynediad i drigolion o naill ben y lôn neu'r llall drwy gydol yr amser.

DS: Bydd mynediad i gerddwyr tra bod yr heolydd hyn ar gau. Bydd yr heolydd ar gau tra bod y gwaith yn cael ei wneud yn unig.

Dyddiedig 29 Ionawr 2015.

M. E. Punter,
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'Some people too modest for honours'

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By all means give people recognition, a thank you, for public spirited work or voluteering. Two 'ordinary' people I have wanted to nominate in the past in Barry were self-effacing and modest and did not want the fuss involved.

I have two foreign decorations, but they were given for valuable work abroad and received no publicity here, nor did I seek it.

Christopher Short,
Barry.

Libraries Day

VALE libraries will be taking part in National Libraries Day on Saturday, February 7.

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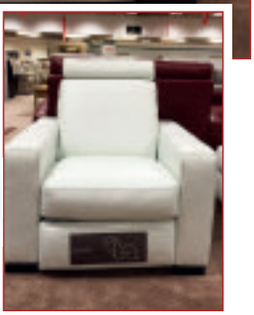

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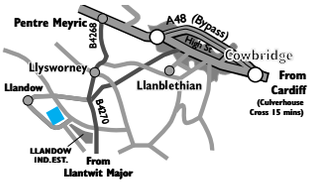

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Residents' festive trees turned into compost

Black gold – and you can pick it up at Court Road Depot!

WASTE and recycling teams have completed their collection of Christmas trees from across the Vale, which have been taken to Cowbridge Compost at Llwynhelig Farm to be turned into compost.

The council announced in December that Cowbridge Compost will deliver a supply of compost every month to the Court Road Depot in Barry for collection, alongside the existing free wood chipping collection.

Residents will be able to collect compost for free between the hours of 10am and 2pm on the last Sunday of each month.

Campaign cuts thefts

A CAMPAIGN to tackle shoplifting in Bridgend county and the Vale of Glamorgan in the run up to Christmas, saw a reduction in thefts at Maesteg and Barry, police report.

The campaign saw police officers making additional patrols in key areas, with officers working with shop staff to try to reduce the number of offences and detect more crimes.

Neighbourhood policing teams in Maesteg and Barry carried out operations to combat shoplifting during the period December 1 through to January 12 and were supported by community safety partnership PCSOs to increase high visibility patrols on the streets and within shops and stores.

Police Sergeant Rob Lewis from Maesteg Police Station said: "The overall result for Maesteg was a 70 per cent reduction in shoplifting from last year. This was achieved through a high-profile presence, targeting known offenders and regular liaison with store staff.".

During the campaign in Barry 26 people were arrested, 15 of whom were charged with theft while three people have already received fixed penalties or youth restorative disposals.

Residents will get their open space back in Barry

RESIDENTS in Aneurin Road, Barry, will see their open space restored – as part of a series of small improvement works carried out by the Vale Council.

The council conducted a survey to see how residents wanted the area to be managed and three quarters approved removing the shrubberies to create an open grass area.

Subject to weather and ground conditions, the shrubberies will be removed and the areas returned to grass by the end of February, a spokesperson promised.

CALL FOR 24-HOUR VALE TRANSPORT

PLAID Cymru candidate for the general election, Coun Ian Johnson, has called for the Vale to have 24-hour trains and buses in his response to the recently published Local Transport Plan, which sets out transport proposals until 2030.

He said that a 24-hour bus and train service, fully integrated as part of the South Wales Metro network, would help people working shifts, those needing to visit hospitals or those enjoying the region's night-time economy.

Coun Johnson said: "If we are serious about the South Wales Metro as a concept then it has to include 24-hour rail and bus transport between major population centres.

Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth chair, Keith Stockdale, who met up with Coun Johnson, added: "Friends of the Earth would like to see more active travel plans, promoting walking and cycling, in this Local Transport Plan, making these central to the plan.

"We would like to see better use of the land all along the railway in the south of the town. This could involve, for example, moving the current Barry Docks station westwards and having more land for the proposed bus-rail interchange, as well as making the station more relevant to Barry town centre."

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Emily takes her Vale seat in parliament!

Pictured are members of UK Youth Parliament from Wales – Emily Peters (Vale), Katherine Davies (Swansea), and Ted Simonds (Conwy) with Dr Hywel Francis MP and Lord Aberdare.

ON Thursday, January 22, the UK Parliament hosted a special event in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 750th anniversary of the parliament called by Simon De Montfort, which met from January to mid-March 1265.

Forty members from both Houses of Parliament, representing the whole of the UK, as well as their respective representatives from the UK Youth Parliament, were present.

They included Emily Peters, from the Vale of Glamorgan.

The de Montfort parliament was the first time that representatives of both towns and shires were summoned simultaneously to discuss matters of national concern, something which ultimately paved the way for the emergence of the House of Commons.

The towns and counties were once again summoned to Westminster Abbey Chapter House, where they met together for the first time since the de Montfort parliament met on January 20, 1265.

Politicians go head-to-head at Arms Park

THE National Assembly's rugby team will take on the House of Common and Lords at Cardiff Arms Park at 2pm on February 6, just hours before the England-Wales match.

The teams will contest the 9th annual fixture to raise money for Bowel Cancer UK, with Assembly Rugby seeking their fourth consecutive win over their rivals.

Assembly Rugby will be represented by Leader of the Opposition, Andrew RT Davies AM, and the Ynys Mon AM, Rhun Ap Iorwerth.

The Commons and Lords, meanwhile, will include Secretary of State for Wales, Stephen Crabb, the Vale of Glamorgan MP, Alun Cairns, and the Rhondda MP, Chris Bryant.

Assembly Rugby chairman, Andrew RT Davies AM, said the game was about promoting good causes and urged members of the public to go along and support the "real" Wales team.

"Over the years, the team has raised more than £10,000 for Bowel Cancer UK and I am proud to be involved.

The annual fixture against the Commons and Lords is always the most anticipated, but ultimately it is about promoting good causes and raising awareness of the work that Bowel Cancer UK do.

"The Assembly team was set up in 2006 by Glyn Davies, who was an AM at the time.

"Glyn overcame bowel cancer and wanted to raise awareness of the illness and personally demonstrate how survivors could go on to lead a full and active life after being so ill. I think that's a message we can all support," he said.

"On behalf of Assembly Rugby I would also like to thank Cardiff Blues for making the stadium available to us.

" I hope that we can deliver the people of Wales the first of two great victories over England on the day!"

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We said goodbye to Archie on Monday, March 25, but our support for Brad, Lauren and Jack didn't stop there. To find out more, watch our video at www.tyhafan.org/leaveagift.

Archie has left his mark on all of us at Tŷ Hafan in so many ways. You can also leave your mark right here in Wales.

Once you've remembered your loved ones, please consider helping Tŷ Hafan with a gift in your Will.

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Out and About with The GEM

J.C. Chandor's Most Violent Year falls just short of greatness...

THE writer and director JC Chandor made a name for himself with his excellent debut feature *Margin Call,* and then by taking screen icon Robert Redford and plonking him on a boat, adrift and with no dialogue, in the terse *All Is Lost*.

With two successes under his belt, hopes and expectations are high for his third feature, *A Most Violent Year.*

Set in New York city in 1981, it tells the story of Abel Morales (Oscar Isaac), a businessman determined to do things the right way to create an empire and provide for his wife Anna (Jessica Chastain) and their children.

However, Abel's expansion plans are caught up in an outbreak of violence and danger and, despite his noblest intentions, he may have to play dirty to make his dreams come true...

JC Chandor's two previous films have directly or indirectly referenced the 1970s films that placed conscience and narrative weight above all else; *Margin Call* was a cautionary tale of excess and the impact it has on those both at the centre of the maelstrom and those who rely on those at the centre of it, while *All Is Lost's* casting of Robert Redford was a nod, knowing or otherwise, towards the driven, charismatic characters the actor played in that decade, and then stripping away the layers in a tale of man versus the elements.

A Most Violent Year similarly wears its debt to that decade; even though it's set in 1981, the aftertaste of the 1970s is felt throughout. The stereotype of the 1980s that many films use as a calling card (greed and avarice predominant) are here but in a much rawer form.

This is a story of a man battling against those elements, ostensibly trying to fight the good fight but finding himself drawn into shady dealings and battling against being forced to make the compromises that will leave him no better than his rivals.

Chandor's script is tight and dense; this is a film that takes its time to tell its story, allowing for the nuances of the characters to form, the weight of events to really take hold. Some have labelled this Chandor's *Godfather*, and though there are some vague similarities present (innocent forced onto the shady side of the tracks to help himself and his family), it doesn't cut that close.

Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain offer restrained and powerful performances; he is a good man but weak, trying to do what is best but always seems half a step in the wrong direction, while she is quietly powerful, a Lady Macbeth figure who is the real power behind the throne.

Their relationship is well drawn and convinces, and the pair's performances are wonderful to boot, with Isaac (to further push a *Godfather* comparison) channeling a young Al Pacino in his ability to hold the screen.

While there are wonderful turns around the lead pair from the likes of Albert Brookes and David Oyelowo, the most engaging supporting turn comes from Elyes Gabel as a delivery driver who is attacked; his subplot is superbly realised, and hits the emotional notes that are lacking elsewhere.

by GARETH JAMIESON
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That is one thing that does feel like a shortcoming of the film; even though the stakes are high, there is little emotional engagement. You want Abel to succeed but you don't feel the pull, Chandor keeping you at arm's length, while as the film slowly winds towards the climax, save for a moment of real tension, Abel's problems never escalate to something palpable – when you think Chandor may pull the rug from under you, it stays exactly where it is.

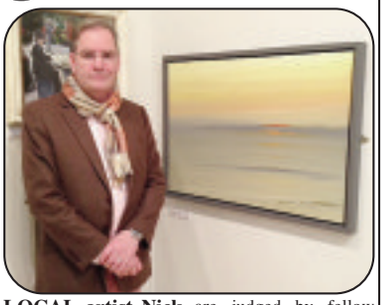
These faults aside, *A Most Violent Year* has plenty of pedigree and quality behind it; the performances and script are rich and satisfying, the direction muted and gritty. If Chandor had pulled it all together at the end it would have been a most excellent film – as it is, it's a most engaging one, falling just short of greatness.

VERDICT: Another successful effort from writer/director JC Chandor, who shows ambition in this sprawling work, *A Most Violent Year* is well-made and sees wonderful work from Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain. A slightly fudged conclusion tempers the praise, but this is still an engaging work. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Yards* (2000), *Summer of Sam* (1999).

See more reviews and news at hindsightfilmsblog.blogspot.co.uk.

Local artist goes national!



LOCAL artist Nick John Rees (*above*) has again been successful in having his submission for The Royal Cambrian Academy of Arts 2015 annual open exhibition accepted.

Each year, artists are invited to submit work for consideration by the academy, which is the longest surviving artist-led organisation in Wales. All submissions are judged by fellow professional artists.

The exhibition opened on January 10 and is a mix of the best contemporary fine art in Wales. Nick's work was featured in S4C's TV programme *Heno* which was screened to coincide with the opening event.

Based in Sully, he regularly exhibits locally and further afield and in recent years has seen his paintings added to both private and public collections all over the world.

☛☛DON'T MISS THE...
BARRY Nr. Cardiff TOY & TRAIN SALE
SUNDAY, 1st FEBRUARY 2015
10.30am - 3.00pm
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Admission £1.95 - Child/OAP £1.50
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Website: chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

What's on, and where in your area...

Wargamers' event

PENARTH & District Wargamers are holding 'Crusade 2015' on Saturday, January 31.

The event will be held at Cogan Leisure Centre, Andrews Road, Penarth (CF64 2NS).

Traders, demonstration, participation games, displays, bring and buy, refreshments, free parking and charity raffle supporting BLESMA.

Doors open at 10am, adults £4 and concessions/children £1. Contact Ian Richards, *email: crusade@penarthwargames.co.uk; www.penarthwargames.co.uk*.

Rummage sale

A RUMMAGE sale will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, January 31 from 10am until 11.30am. Entry 50p (to include tea/coffee). Plenty of bargains for all. All proceeds to charity.

Valeways guided walks

ON February 1, Valeways will guide a walk to Dr Salmon's Wells at 2.30pm; meet at Penllyn Castle opposite entrance (SS 973760). On Tuesday, February 3, Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi meet at Coffee Cove Cafe, Barry Island at 10am.

On Wednesday, February 4, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park, Penarth at 10.30am.

Toy and train sale

BARRY Toy and Train sale will take place on February 1, 10.30am to 3pm in Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Barry attracts a great range of traders from both sides of the Severn Bridge and a wonderful array of stock is always available from all the big names such as Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Tri-ang, Hornby, Lima, Wrenn, Bachmann, etc.

"In the current economic climate, prices have never been keener and it is an ideal time to build up collections at budget prices."

Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Free tax advice

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) will offer free advice to older people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial house, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB, on February 2 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321, or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Volunteer sessions

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) will be at the Let's Garw office on the High Street in Pontycymer on the first Tuesday of every month, starting February 3 from 10am – 12.30pm) to give details of volunteering opportunities.

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400, or visit www.bavo.org.uk.

Putting Families First

PARENTS, grandparents and carers in Barry who look after children aged 0 – 11 years, are invited to attend a free coffee and cake information session in Barry to find out more about a local community programme aimed at families.

Run in partnership with the Vale council-led Putting Families First and Barry Communities First, it will provide opportunities to take part in courses to support a child's learning. There are also a range of activities on offer, such as relaxation, jewellery making and coping with stress.

This free session will take place at The People Centre, 3 Dunlin Court near Thompson Street on February 4 (1pm – 3pm).

For more information, telephone 01446 709432, or visit www.BarryCommunities.

Luncheon club

A Barry Communities First Luncheon Club takes place on the first Wednesday of every month for those aged 55 and over on February 4 (12pm – 2pm), at Parkside Christian Centre, St Bride's Way, Barry.

For £2.85, they will receive a two-course meal and bingo with prizes.

Contact 01446 709432 or www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Harry Potter book night

ON February 5, the first ever Harry Potter Book Night will be celebrated worldwide, and Penarth Library and Griffin Books will be co-hosting a special evening of wizarding activities for children (suggested age range 7 – 12) at the library from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

Young wizards, witches and muggles will be treated to an evening of games, activities, readings and quizzes including a Harry Potter fancy dress competition, readings from 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone', face painting and glitter tattoos, wand making and a fiendish Harry Potter Trivia Challenge.

Tickets for the event are free and available in advance from *Griffin Books (tel 02920 706455) and Penarth Library (02920 708438)*.

Art society

ON Thursday, February 5, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Claire Smith from the National Museum of Wales who will give an illustrated talk on the lives and work of Augustus and Gwen John.

These are usually very informative and interesting occasions, accompanied by a powerpoint presentation.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm). Visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

History lecture

COWBRIDGE History Society's next lecture on Friday, February 6, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge, is 'Pentyrch and the Garth: a light hearted local history study,' by Don Llewellyn. All are welcome!

Scout jumble

THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout jumble sale takes place at 1.30pm on Saturday, February 7, at the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

Candlelit concert

SUNDAY, February 8, will see this year's candlelit concert at St Donat's Church by singers and musicians from Atlantic College.

It begins at 4pm and a varied programme will be offered. Tickets £5, on sale at Nickleby's bookshop in Llantwit Major and on the door. The annual event will raise funds for the upkeep of the 11th century church.

Shadows Club

FEBRUARY 10, Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (02920 309979), South Wales Shadows Club, 8pm. All are welcome.

Charity coffee

AT All Saints' Church Hall, Porthcawl, on February 20 at 10.30am, there will be a coffee morning to support Cancer Research.

Tickets are available from Diane Jones on 01656 784762, or at the door; stalls and raffle.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D863.

The Rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

• **£2,000**: 1630.

•**10**: 195323, 571670, 413996, 452181, 645560, 564521, 229042, 278724, 349255, 839524, 794122, 672739, 647671, 320175, 463944, 627089, 704910, 351806, 287513, 254462.

•**5**: 771528, 570018, 509682, 226218, 687888, 930392, 751729, 685318, 693780, 704722, 655852, 311181, 504036, 823636, 901084, 665189, 181672, 319750, 964987, 463088, 546722, 558409, 596451, 861574, 780464, 334130, 787622, 104997, 127953, 194793, 423017, 718614, 792732, 788774, 838916, 393648, 705249, 731462, 556759, 235374, 126013, 266030, 608115, 280362, 256984, 244408, 741501, 764890, 621258, 864997, 260464, 852293, 682537, 615899, 649567, 338543, 674, 462, 4, 1773.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

So sad council voluntary merger is rejected

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I WOULD like to begin by wishing everyone a belated happy new year. I would dearly like to wish everyone a prosperous new year, but it is abundantly clear that austerity will remain and the financial issues facing central, regional and local government will continue.

Last month, I indicated it would be good to review what has happened in the Vale of Glamorgan Council during our term in office and I had intended to dedicate this and further columns to those issues and review what has happened in the council.

However, when writing my last column the cabinet had agreed the submission of an expression of interest in merging with Bridgend Council on a voluntary basis in line with a request from Welsh Government.

Since then a meeting of full council ratified that decision, the expression of interest was submitted and we have been waiting for a decision by Welsh Government on those proposals, which we had hoped would have been on January 5.

On Tuesday (January 27) I received a telephone call from the Minister informing me that our submission was unsuccessful.

I was told the reason for this is because it was not compliant with the requirements put forward by the Williams Commission, which based a merger of authorities on health footprints contained within the 'Map'.

If there are no further changes to the 'Map' by Welsh Government in the future, the recommendations of the Williams Commission to merge the Vale Council with Cardiff Council will be Welsh Government's way forward.

I have always made perfectly clear my opposition to the recommendation of the Williams Commission to merge the Vale Council with Cardiff Council. I stand by that opposition. I am still convinced the recommendations are flawed and have no option but to continue to take the same stance, despite this rejection.

The interests of our residents have been of primary concern to me throughout this process and this is why I am deeply saddened by the decision. In light of today's announcement, we will be considering what options are now available to the Vale of Glamorgan and how the needs of our residents can be best met.

We now await further developments from Welsh Government, as and when they are released, particularly if another White Paper is likely to be issued next week.

Bearing in mind Welsh Government's decision, this council will not be deterred in continuing our programme of work to benefit the people we represent. I had promised to review what we would be doing and I will do so from next month onward, but in the meantime, I will mention below some examples.

SCHOOLS INVESTMENT

We will be continuing our school investment programme and will shortly be reporting on the consultation we have had in relation to the secondary education provision in Barry.

This follows on from the successes at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, the Penarth Learning Community, and our decision to create a new Learning Community in Llantwit Major.

We have recently reopened the Eastern promenade at Barry Island. The work to regenerate the prom has been a great success and we have been astounded by the very positive reaction received. In the next few weeks and months we will be continuing improvements to the rest of the promenade and gardens, and we will start work on the Western Shelter area too.

We were also very pleased with the 'Weekenders' events on the Island last summer and I am delighted to confirm that the 'Isle of Fire' event has been shortlisted in the 'Best Small Event' category at the Wales Tourism awards.

The winner will be announced in March, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned for creating these very positive, popular and amazing weekends.

While mentioning events, I cannot fail to also refer to the Christmas lights switch-on and the fact that it went viral on social media. Was this Wales' best Christmas lights switch-on? – I think it possibly was; so once again, a very big thank you to the organising team and the backup from our other staff who, as always, make sure that the event spaces are cleared after these events take place.

We have also continued success in partnership with private sector partners. Work is continuing with the second road to the island through the Housing Consortium and work has begun on the redevelopment of the Pumphouse, again on the Waterfront.

I am very pleased that we can see the signs of our determination to make things come to fruition. On that front I am also pleased that at last we have made progress on the funfair site on the Island and I am looking forward to working with these new private sector partners to revive this long awaited beachfront site.

As I indicated earlier, this is just a quick review of some of the areas where we are succeeding and I will continue this theme when I present the next column and also address any issues that arise in the meantime.

I will just finish by confirming my determination, that while the Vale of Glamorgan Council is here, we will endeavour to do the right thing for all our citizens, despite any distractions that come our way.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Funding level *is* unfair to Wales'

YOUR letters correspondent on the Barnett formula for Government funding for Wales ('Wales does well out of the Barnett formula', The GEM, January 15) either doesn't understand the basis of the formula, or has chosen to ignore it for political reasons.

The Barnett formula is a complicated calculation, taking into account the needs of different areas of the UK – and Wales has a history of heavy industry, poor health and disadvantage to take into account – as well as demands from difficult geography and areas of dispersed population.

It is grossly simplistic to say that Wales gets more per head than England, and so Wales isn't underfunded.

Wales needs more Government funding per head than England (as a whole) but the current formula still doesn't provide a funding level commensurate with the needs.

Even the author of the Barnett formula himself argued that the formula is unfair to Wales and should be revised.

I think your correspondent is ".. wilfully … misleading ..." your readers and not the Welsh Government as s/he claims.

John Drysdale,
Peterston super Ely.

'Don't isolate social housing'

I FEARr that Mr C Short (The GEM, January 22) has now become a NIMBBY (Not In My Barry Back Yard) and would prefer that all the rich people move into Redrow's new £1/2 million houses in Colwinston – dumping them where there are no shops, no public transport, narrow and unpaved lanes, regular flooding, and sewage overflows.

With the Vale Conservatives in cahoots with Labour by agreeing to build on every field between Barry and Bridgend, why do we need our ineffectual planning department?

Scrapping it would save millions, then cancel the draft gobbledegook LDP and simply re-date the 'existing' UDP, which is ignored anyway.

But none of this addresses the real need for more social and affordable housing in the Vale – these homes need access to public transport, employment and shops.

Surely they must be situated in and around the major settlements, not in small and isolated rural villages?

As for us all drinking Pimms No.1, I have already requested that our pub landlord gets in a few more barrels of the stuff, to quench the thirst of our new and rich arrivals.

Finally, the last Communist in the village was burnt on Bonfire Night some years ago!

Mr T Morgan,
Colwinston.

'Make Cardiff a hub airport'

I SEE that, quite rightly, people have been writing letters to The GEM with ideas about the future development use of Cardiff Airport, since it seems to have stagnated since being in public ownership.

I would like to add a suggestion:

In my view, Rhoose is an ideal location for a 'hub' airport where passengers land to catch connecting flights but do not leave the airport.

There is currently much opposition to the construction of another runway for this purpose at Heathrow, due to its location in a heavily-populated area.

We already have an ideal runway here, which is barely used, and where the approach and departure directions are either over the sea or over countryside, so the disturbance from aircraft would be minimal compared to Heathrow.

The revenue in landing fees which a busy hub airport would bring to us, as the public owners of the airport, would be enormous.

In addition, the local employment provided by serving the needs of the aircraft and passengers whilst passing through the airport would also be huge.

There would also be the benefit of being able to avoid the expense of any great improvement in road and rail infrastructure to the airport – since there would be no significant increase in the number of passenger movements to and from the airport.

From the airlines' point of view, it doesn't matter where a hub airport is located so why not develop one at Rhoose as an alternative to Heathrow?

T Cox,
Barry.

'WE SHOULD ALL FIGHT INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT'

I WOULD like to point out to Paul Jeremy (GEM letters, January 22) that the people of Barry also love the beauty of the rural Vale. We are also suffering from the lack of an up-to-date LDP.

The rush of planning applications by developers and land owners hoping to make a quick buck is worrying for us all.

We have recently suffered the loss of a large chunk of ancient woodland at Pencoedtre, and have also seen White Farm turned into yet another bland housing estate.

The land that is now under attack is Green Farm and Walters Farm (also land at Brynhill).

These areas are not urban – the land at Walters Farm has one of the largest areas of neutral meadow grassland left in Wales. It is considered to be of national importance. It is also home and breeding ground to many bird species on the endangered list.

It has roosting and maternity sites of endangered bat species – which are supposed to be protected by European law – but we shall see!

The ancient woodland is a site of special scientific interest.

The interest shown in upgrading Five Mile Lane is, in my view, suspect.

Development at Weycock Cross, plus an upgrade, will impact heavily on the villages of Bonvilston, St Nicholas and Peterston, as the traffic trying to escape the rush hour mayhem will be encouraged to take this direction.

The enormous developments on the Waterfront, with another 2,000 homes planned, ease pressure on the Vale's housing needs, but are causing increasing problems for the residents of Barry as the traffic increases. The protesters in Barry are a polite bunch who have avoided the dirty tactics of nominating greenfield sites in other areas and have offered support to other communities.

We are fighting for the rural Vale – it's the bit where the countryside meets the town.

We are all united in our curiosity about Llandow and I feel we would be better served pushing for answers on this.

The possibility of a new and exciting development there would solve a lot of problems.

Instead of political point-scoring, a bit less 'not in my back yard' attitude could possibly get better results.

We should all be fighting against inappropriate development in the Vale, with a gentle reminder that Barry is also part of it.

Sue Eldridge,
Barry.

Dismay over planning applications

I HAVE read recently, with considerable dismay, a number of planning applications which have been submitted to the Vale Council, pertaining to towns and villages around the Vale.

In addition to the 390 houses planned for the enlarged plot at Darren Farm, there were 124 residences in Wick, 40 in Ystradowen and 10 in Llanmaes – just in The GEM of January 15 – and more had been published previously in Barry and Colwinston.

Also last week, there was an application for a link road between the A48 and the Llantwit Major road.

While such a road would be helpful in easing the traffic to come through Cowbridge, when heading for Llantwit Major or the Llandough estate, the route chosen is somewhat worrying.

It comes close to an historic church building, and to the village of Llysworney. Where a link road is built, houses are sure to follow!

Farming is the largest industry in the Vale of Glamorgan, and with all this building, our green fields will disappear forever, and the Vale will no longer be an agricultural area.

Do we really want this?

I understand that Welsh Government policy was to minimise the taking of farming land and to avoid the creation of an urban sprawl. How can our schools be expected to cope with the great influx of extra pupils?

And how will Cowbridge cope with so much extra traffic at peak periods – not to mention the parking problems we already have – in a small town which has lost its police station, its Post Office and most of its bus services?

If all this development goes through, the character of the Vale will be changed completely, to the detriment of us all.

Mrs L H Thomas,
Cowbridge.

What price principles?

THE view expressed in The GEM on January 22 by Paul Jeremy of Vale Villages Together is the classic NIMBY attitude.

We need much more housing in the Vale of Glamorgan, fact! Virtually all development in the past has been centred around the existing towns in the Vale.

Any development in the villages always involves building one or two exclusive properties, that enhance the village scene, and are only targeting the well-off middle class. It is totally evident from all the objections raised by the opponents of village development that their only motive is selfish – money driven, self interest.

This out-dated attitude that all development should be centred on Barry smacks of elitism and shows the campaign in its true colours, "I've got what I want, so let's pull up the drawbridge."

We all enjoy the benefits of the countryside, but if you check your local Ordinance Survey map, I don't think the rural Vale runs the risk of being turned into a concrete jungle for several millennia yet.

What happens to all these village children when they grow up and need housing, and there is none affordable in their own local environment ?

Garry Tippins,
Barry.

Bus company chief replies

I WRITE in reply to the comment in last week's GEM readers' letters section, concerning my company's 303/304 service.

Having checked our on-bus tracker system I can confirm there is a slight problem with late running on this service – on average, the bus has been less than four minutes late over the last seven days.

We are making a number of further improvements to the route over the coming weeks, which will come into effect in the spring that will include adding additional running time on this section of route to improve reliability. In the meantime, I have asked our bus operation team to monitor the journey on a daily basis and check if any short term improvements can be made.

Although we like our bus service to arrive on time, I fail to see how a bus service that operates on average four minutes late can be described as "shockingly poor" – especially at this time of year when driving conditions are generally poor, due to the weather.

Kevyn Jones, Cardiff,
Managing Director,
New Adventure Travel.

Extra housing will cause 'utter gridlock' in town

THE proposal for 390 houses to be built on Darren Farm to the north west of Cowbridge and the addition of over 1,000 people, will have a significant impact on the town

The benefit of the proposed link road to existing residents will be minimal, we have the A48 bypass.

Large numbers of people from the development will travel into Cowbridge to use its facilities. Surely this will be the reason most people will move there?

With the distance it is from the town centre, I cannot see many people walking.

The traffic problem will be exceptionally acute at peak times, rush hour, Saturdays and school start and finish.

Many more cars will travel through the town to the comprehensive school (it is already rather difficult to get through the town from 3pm). There will be utter gridlock at the traffic lights from the extra residents.

These important transport considerations need to be looked at systematically as part of all the planning for the Vale, and such a significant development would be best placed in a settlement with rail links.

This is a huge greenfield site. There is a significant impact on the wider special landscape area and the harm to the character of the immediate area would be substantial.

I am a 38-year-old who loves the environment, loves walking, and enjoys the wildlife and landscape around Cowbridge.

I live with my parents and whilst I fully appreciate the need for affordable housing, please, please do not build over our fields; once they are gone we won't get them back.

Mr JA Hailes,
Cowbridge.

New homes are crucial to the local economy

I WOULD like to comment on the current debate about the proposed housing development at Darren Farm, just outside Cowbridge.

Is everyone in Cowbridge a NIMBY?

It appears that if you can afford a house here, then you don't want any other houses on your doorstep.

The simple fact is that we are living longer and keeping our houses – the only way children can stay in Cowbridge and contribute to its economy is if new homes are built.

New homes should go near shops and services – it is far more logical to build them close to Cowbridge than scattering them in the Vale's villages.

I hope the Vale Villages Together pressure group will support this application as it seems like a good solution – a school and a new road are being provided with the homes.

That seems to me to be a good idea.

Mr J. Lewis
Llantwit Major

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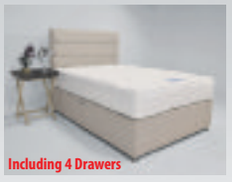

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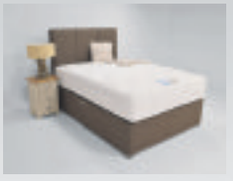

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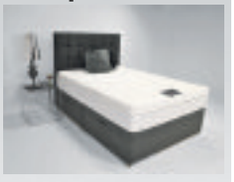

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No merger for Vale and Bridgend as council plan is now back to square one!

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE proposed merger between the Vale Council and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is dead in the water after the Welsh Government rejected the plan.

Two other prospective 'happy couples' – Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent, and also Conwy and Denbighshire – were also told to call off their 'civil partnerships'.

The Welsh Government statement was short on detail, with Leighton Andrews AM, Minister for Public Services, saying: "I am not persuaded that any one of these expressions of interest sufficiently meets the criteria for moving ahead to prepare a full voluntary merger proposal".

He went on to say that the proposals had to prove themselves better that "our full preferred map (Williams Option 1)".

That option sees Bridgend join with Neath Port Talbot, and the Vale merge with Cardiff.

Mr Andrews added another reservation, saying: "We also needed to have confidence that authorities would be able to develop comprehensive merger proposals by June 30, 2015".

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale Council, said: "The interests of our residents have been our primary concern and this is why I am deeply saddened by the decision of Welsh Government.

"In light of today's announcement, we will be considering what options are now left available to the Vale and how the needs of our residents can be best met."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "This is a real egg on face moment for the Vale Council and Welsh Government. The local authority was encouraged to agree with a merger with Bridgend, and did so enthusiastically.

"The Welsh Government has now thrown it back, and from the outside it looks shambolic. I had always considered it odd to have had the prospect of decisions affecting the Vale being made from as far away as the Ogmore and Garw valleys – it makes no sense.

"What is of great concern is the cost of all this. I have written to the Welsh Government to determine how much money has been wasted on walking the local authorities up the hill, only to then march them down again. It is chaos."

For BCBC, Council Leader Mel Nott OBE said: "This is extremely disappointing news. We felt that we had put forward a strong argument for exploring a potential merger with the Vale area, and believed that such a move would have delivered the most benefits and advantages for the people of Bridgend county borough.

"We are already developing partnerships with the Vale Council, and held that a merger to the east would have enabled us to contribute to and benefit economically from the development of the Cardiff Capital Region, as well as maintaining momentum in educational improvements and ensuring geographical alignment with many other public services in the area.

"However, we must reluctantly accept the decision of the minister, consider our options in light of the announcement and look towards the Welsh Government for further guidance over the future of local government in Wales."

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, said the Welsh Government's plans were now "in disarray".

He said: "This decision is good news for residents of the Vale, but the proposal was deeply flawed from the start.

"I remain deeply concerned that local authorities have been forced to consider inappropriate options because of the significant threat of financial penalties for those who refused.

"It is vital that we get clarity from the Welsh Government on the next steps for local authorities. Equally important though, it is high time that we had a proper discussion about the shape of local government in the future.

"To date, no one has outlined what services will be delivered under the new structure or indeed what role, if any, will be played by town and community councillors."

Welsh NHS in firing line after Monday cancellations

by PHILIP IRWIN

ARGUMENTS over the state of the NHS in Wales flared up again this week after Cardiff and Vale health board cancelled all non-urgent outpatient appointments in the University Hospital of Wales and Llandough Hospital on Monday (January 26).

Andrew RT Davies, the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives said: "I have been contacted by several patients from Cardiff and the Vale who have arrived for appointments this morning, with no notice that they had been cancelled.

"It's totally unacceptable and demonstrates the pressure that health boards are under because of Welsh Labour's failure to plan properly for the winter period".

Alice Casey, the chief operating officer at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "Due to extreme pressures on our services, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has taken a number of extraordinary measures today in order to safely manage patient care.

"All available staff are being directed to help manage this situation. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to cancel and rearrange a number of elective and outpatient activities.

"Non-urgent outpatient appointments at the University Hospital of Wales and University Hospital Llandough are cancelled today, with the exception of cardiac, dermatology, haematology, mental health clinics, ophthalmology, dental, children's clinics, thoracic and fracture clinics.

"Those patients receiving care on a day-care basis in haematology, rheumatology, children's, cardiac and neurology will continue as planned".

Mr Davies said: "For local residents who rely on these hospitals for their treatment, these cancellations will be extremely concerning and it's high time for the Welsh Labour Government to admit that there is a crisis in the Welsh NHS".

Speaking later in the day, Alice Casey added: "We would like to thank all members of the public in bearing with us today after the decision to cancel and rearrange a number of elective and outpatient activities.

"This decision was made due to the number of patients, presenting as emergencies with complex needs requiring a high level of care. Therefore, our priority has been to look after these people.

"Demand on our services remains extremely high but we are able to confirm that all appointments for the rest of the week will continue as planned.

"If anyone is unsure about their situation we encourage them to contact us on 02920 748181 for help."

WIs celebrate!

THE National Federation of Women's Institutes is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and the Glamorgan Federation started their celebrations in style last week by holding two lunches at The Aberavon Beach Hotel, Port Talbot when 380 members from 38 WIs attended.

They were treated to a demonstration of floral art from Mrs Daphne Furneaux from Llanddewi with Knelston WI in Gower.

Daphne is an NFWI tutor for floristry and flower arranging and a judge. At last year's Chelsea Flower Show she gained a silver gilt medal. All who attended the lunch are looking forward to the rest of the year's festivities. These will include a commemorative service at Llandaff Cathedral and fashion shows in Swansea. **JE**

VALE of GLAMORGAN

BRO MORGANNWG

LABC CYMRU

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Building Excellence Awards 2015

CRITERIA REQUIRED:

- **Compliance with Building Regulations and energy efficiency**
- **Supplying and managing information (giving of notices and information relative to the work)**
- **Speed of fault rectification**
- **Site environment, safety and storage of materials (so as not to be detrimental to their use)**
- **Client/customer satisfaction**
- **Sustainable and technical Innovation.**
- **Access for people with special adaptations**
- **Small Domestic, Housing and Commercial projects**

BUILDERS and developers who use the building regulation service of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, will be attending the 12th Building Excellence Awards dinner, organised through the council's Building Control Group at The Vale Resort Golf Club, Hensol on Friday, January 30.

Nominations for the awards are made by the council's Building Control surveyors, who are responsible for the supervision of the projects as they progress on site, through to completion of the work.

Coun Fred Johnson, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, stated:

"This is the twelfth successive year of the Building Awards, and I have great pleasure in giving recognition to builders and developers who are determined to provide a high-quality, customer-orientated service.

"The nominations go to show, yet again, that there are several excellent examples of high-quality construction projects that have been undertaken within the Vale of Glamorgan.

"Ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with current building regulations requires a very high standard of workmanship, and the builders nominated this year have proven that they can meet this requirement.

"I hope we continue to build upon the success, when our nominations represent Wales and go forward to The National Awards, in London, as a finalist."

KEY ROLE

Marcus Goldsworthy, Operational Manager for the Development and Building Control Group, commented:

"Building Regulations have a key role whenever you decide to make alterations, extend or construct new buildings. With recent changes to the planning process and devolution of Building Regulations to the Welsh Assembly, reducing carbon emissions and improving performance and energy efficiency is at the front of the development process.

"Everyone has a part to play in conserving energy and reducing carbon emission – whether we are homeowners seeking to extend our homes, or developers taking forward a major new scheme.

"Changing the way we construct buildings to make them more sustainable, will be a big challenge for all involved in the industry".

The Development and Building Control Group falls within the council's development services department, and its Head of Service, Rob Thomas, stated:

"Development of any size has a major impact on the day-to-day lives of persons who are undertaking building projects. Ultimately, it is the builder who has the major responsibility in satisfying, not only the customer's needs, but also of meeting the terms of the legislation.

"The Building Awards will provide all those involved with well-deserved recognition for consistently carrying out work of a high standard".

THANKS

The council would also like to thank all the sponsors of this event, without whom it would not be possible to recognise the builders and developers whose quality of work is making a positive difference to the environment of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Sponsors are: Nina Estate Agents from Barry, ACD Skip & Recycling from Bridgend, The Vale Resort, Hensol, Greenbuild Consult, Durisol, Jewsons, and The Glamorgan GEM.

Winners of the Vale of Glamorgan event will go forward to the LABC South Wales Building Awards dinner which will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf & Spa Resort, Hensol, on April 17. Host is Owen Money, the vocalist is Dave Bowen, and it will help to raise funds for Cancer Research.

The ultimate achievement is recognised at national level. Winners of the All Wales event will be nominated for the LABC National Building Awards, which will include nominations from most of the local authorities throughout Wales and England in London next November.

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS

FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO BUNGALOW

Address:
ROXBURGH LODGE, 12A PLYMOUTH ROAD, PENARTH

Agent: **1010 Architects**

Contractor: **Phil Harris**

The existing bungalow was a single storey, monopitched ranch-style property in the local conservation area.

The architect and builder have created a timber-framed extension to provide bedrooms and bathrooms on the first floor.

The renovation also included a make-over of the ground floor accommodation, to create space more usable for modern living.

The completed scheme has resulted in a modern house with a contemporary feel.

The external facades have been clad with a combination of zinc and cedar cladding.

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DEMOLITION AND RE -CONSTRUCTION OF GARAGE, FORMATION OF NEW EXTERNAL DOOR/WINDOW OPENING TO EXISTING DWELLING AND MINOR WORKS

Address: **93 PLYMOUTH ROAD, PENARTH**

Agent/Contractor: **Logic CPS Ltd** working with **Chris Loyn Architects**

The proposal was to modify and extend an existing period dwelling, using modern materials – such as large panel glazing.

The existing side and rear elevations at ground floor level have been removed, with the first floor supported on a structural steel frame with steel piers. An additional glass walled and glass roofed annexe has been added, to give the rear of the building a very light and airy feel.

The glazing systems used are of high quality, ensuring an outstanding thermal performance.

The rear garage has been transformed with opaque glazing to the garden elevation, which can be changed at the press of a button.

LOFT EXTENSION inc. ALTERATIONS TO FRONT & REAR DORMER, BALCONY, PORCH AND EXTENSION AT REAR

Address:
21 ROBINSWOOD CLOSE, PENARTH

Agent: **AD Hoc Designs Ltd**

Contractor: **AD Hoc Designs & Building Ltd**

The proposal is to extend an existing 1960s-style bungalow by the addition of first floor dormers to the front and rear, and a side extension.

This has opened up the interior to provide a large, rear kitchen living space leading to the hallway, which features a floating white-treaded, bespoke staircase and glass balustrades.

The finished project has enhanced the existing features and added a very modern, open plan 'feel' to the building.

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EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS

EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS

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Address:
8, LLANDAFF CLOSE, PENARTH
Agent: **1010 Architects**
Contractor: **S. J. Builders**

The proposal was to extend an existing 1960s-style bungalow and realise its full potential. The extension consists of a new study, utility and garden room.

The first floor has an additional en-suite bathroom. The remainder of the layout has been remodelled to give the building an open feel, with improved views of the rear enclosed garden.

The builder has kept in contact with Building Control throughout the scheme, which has been necessary with the need to underpin part of the existing garage that had inadequate foundations.

The building has been finished to a high standard, giving the owners a remodelled property with a modern twist.

TWO STOREY EXTENSION

Address:
ADERYN, NURSTON
Agent/ Contractor:
Mr. Mike Guthrie

This is a visually impressive, two-storey extension to a rural property. It comprises a spacious, open plan roof structure, supported by a glulam ridge beam and a first floor balcony.

In addition to the extension works, the contractor implemented flood protection measures, and re-used the existing stonework of the demolished extension to create a bespoke-style boundary wall.

Fulfilling the conditions of the planning approval, also resulted in the contractor having to undertake substantial temporary support work for the existing roof structure. This was followed by the construction of a complex roof design.

The contractor demonstrated a clear ability to overcome these issues and has produced a build of exceptional quality.

Mike Guthrie
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EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO ROOF SPACE

Address:
ST MICHAELS, DYFFRYN, ST NICHOLAS
Applicant:
The National Trust
Agent/Contractor:
Martin Davies, Nathan Goss, Peter Bricknell

The site is on the Dyffryn Gardens Estate: the two-storey stone building has been used as an estate office for a number of years.

The proposal was to add another office at first floor level over the existing stairway. Due to the nature of the site, and its close proximity to the main Dyffryn House, it was decided to install feature elevations and a pinnacle roof.

The builder, who specialises in conservation schemes, has produced an outstanding addition, to create an unusual building to modern requirements

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

CONVERSION CATEGORY

BARN CONVERSION INTO HOLIDAY LETS

Address: **HIGHLIGHT FARM, HIGHLIGHT LANE, BARRY**

Applicant/Contractor: **Mr Chris Lakin**

Agent: **Steve Sidford c/o**

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PENSEIRI SIARTREDIG

EPT Partnership, Cardiff

THIS nomination follows the conversion of an historic barn into two self-catering holiday accommodation cottages.

The project involved reclaiming stone and timber from the site, and reducing the overall carbon footprint, while maintaining the rustic feel of the cottages.

Both cottages were insulated to a standard which was over and above the energy efficiency required by building regulations.

The cottages also benefit from underfloor heating and dedicated bike storage facilities.

Stunning views of the Dyffyrn Valley are provided by the inclusion of aluminium-framed bi-folding doors, providing access to cantilevered steel frame balconies.

CONVERSION OF STABLES AND EXTENSIONS

Address: **WILLOW COTTAGE, TREOES**

Applicant/Contractor: **Mr Colin Anstee**

Agent: **Christopher Williams Design Services**

This scheme involved the conversion of an existing stable block, together with a single and two-storey extension, to create a new dwelling.

Built of cavity wall construction, the entire building has been clad with local reclaimed stone and brick quoins to produce a property of such character and detail.

Internal accommodation includes four bedrooms with en-suite bathroom to the main bedroom, large open plan family room, and kitchen.

An ornate stone staircase complements the remainder of the detailed build. The owner/builder maintained good contact with Building Control throughout the project, to produce a quality building.

NEW INDIVIDUAL DWELLING

NEW DWELLING

Address: **TY COCH FARM DROPE LANE, ST BRIDES SUPER ELY**

Agent: **Richard Whitaker**

Contractor: **Lee Ford**

The scheme consists of a new three -storey house on an infill plot in the village of St. Brides Super Ely.

The property includes lounge/ dining area, family room, games room, gymnasium and pool, five bedrooms at first floor level.

It has an open aspect created by the large hallway and feature staircase.

During the build, an additional conversion of the second floor was discussed and agreed with the onsite BCO and through good liaison, a suitable solution was concluded. This is a well-constructed property of a very high standard.

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NEW DWELLINGS

NEW INDIVIDUAL DWELLING

Address: **AFRYN HOUSE, COWBRIDGE**

Agent: **1010 Architects**

Contractor: **WRW**

This new dwelling, submitted in full plans format, was to replace a sub-standard bungalow previously situated on the site. Severe planning restrictions regarding the ridge height of the new dwelling, necessitated significant ground works and mass excavations to formation level.

The timber-framed building incorporates an independent 'granny annexe' set to the one side of an impressive entrance hallway. It includes all accommodation expected of such a unique dwelling.

It is heated via a bio-mass boiler with underfloor heating, and is finished to an extremely high standard. This is a dwelling of much substance and well worthy of the nomination.

NEW DWELLINGS

Address:
TURKEY STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR

Applicant/Contractor:
Kent Property Services

Agent: **Chris Edwards c/o Evolution**

This site was formerly occupied by a local service station/ garage with associated forecourt and petrol pumps.

Prior to construction, the underground petrol storage tanks were removed and soil analysis tests carried out, to ensure that the ground was not contaminated. Construction then proceeded with the two new individual dwellings, and the conversion of an existing property, suitably extended to produce a third dwelling. Site constraints provided the developer with many logistical problems, which were overcome, to produce three quality dwellings.

The developer ensured health and safety aspects were complied with, and kept in constant contact with building control at all stages of construction.

NEW DWELLINGS

Address: **SCHOLARS VIEW, TOWNMILL ROAD, COWBRIDGE**

Applicant/Agent/Contractor:
Taylor Wimpey South Wales

This project involved the demolition of the lower school buildings to Cowbridge Comprehensive School and the erection of 21 new residential homes, with six being of low-cost, affordable units.

The site constraints created many logistical problems for the construction team, but with consideration and co-operation of local residents being paramount, the site was completed with minimal disruption.

The contractors maintained contact with Building Control throughout all stages of construction, and ensured constant compliance with their health and safety regime, to produce a development of an extremely high standard.

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NEW DWELLINGS

4 NO. 2 BEDROOM DWELLINGS

Address: **OLD FARM MEWS, DINAS POWYS**
Agent: **Hoole & Walmsley Architects**
Contractor: **Brickflair**

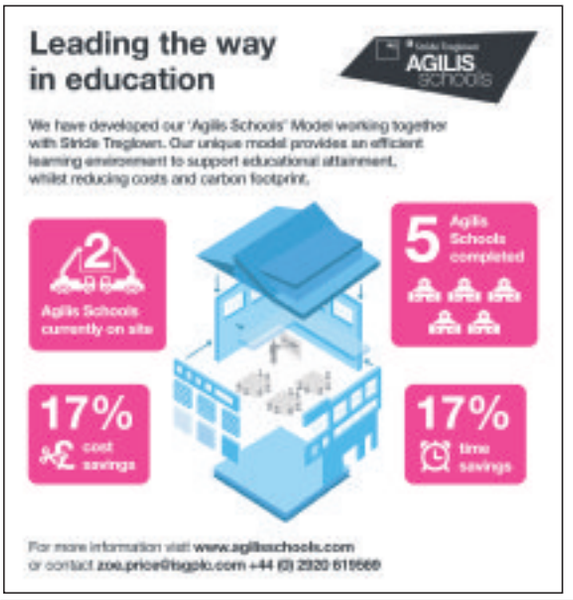
The split-level houses erected on a derelict site in the centre of the village of Dinas Powys. were initially built for the architect and her family.

Consequently, the standard is extremely high, as there has been continuous site supervision by the architect, building control, and LABC warranty inspectors.

The resultant properties are both modern in their design, and mirror the colours and material of the existing buildings in the village.

NEW EDUCATION BUILDING

NEW SCHOOL



Address:
YSGOL NANT TALWG, BARRY
Applicant: **Vale of Glamorgan**
Agent: **Stride Treglown**
Contractor: **ISG**

This new school building has been tailored to meet the needs of its users, as well as achieving high standards of thermal efficiency and fire safety.

It has been designed to meet the requirement in Wales for BREEAM – with 'excellent' EPC 'A' rating – and constructed to achieve a 40% improvement on current Building Control minimum insulation u-values.

In addition, the model school building has been provided with an efficient M&E design, photovoltaic roof panels and a full sprinkler fire protection system.

From the beginning, the contractor delivered a high standard of site safety and established an integrated partnership on health and safety with the campus headmaster and staff.

A meaningful bilingual traffic management plan that improved the existing systems, was implemented within the site, HSQE audits were carried out on a weekly basis and the contractor actively participated in site safety discussions with pupils and staff.

Throughout the scheme, the contractor demonstrated a highly professional and competent approach and has delivered a first rate project that is a worthy inclusion in this year's nominations.

NEW SCHOOL AND RESPITE UNIT

Address: **PENARTH LEARNING CENTRE, ST CYRES ROAD, PENARTH**
Applicant: **Vale of Glamorgan**
Agent: **HLM Architects**

Contractor: **Leadbitter Bouygues**

The proposal is to provide a new super school for the Vale of Glamorgan, which comprises a mainstream building and SEN school linked at levels 2 and 3. Each school operates independently from one another, creating a state of the art comprehensive.

The mainstream school is a three-storey building (level 1- 3). It comprises teaching classrooms, sports hall, main hall, offices, reception, plant, storage kitchen, IT server rooms and WCs.

The SEN school is a two-storey building (level 2-3) and has similar facilities to the mainstream unit – but all-purpose built for the use of special educational needs students.

There is also a two-storey Respite accommodation building on site, to provide facilities for both students and carers.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

LABC SITE SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

This award recognises a specific person, rather than an overall company. Nominations should be for a site manager who has stood out by going above and beyond the call of duty, to ensure an outstanding working relationship with the local authority.

Specific criteria - Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC surveyor; evidence of build quality and control on site; evidence/examples of technical awareness, good communication and management of safety; evidence of particular issues or problems resolved by the site agent; references/comments from building control or other development partners to support the nomination.

ROB BOYD
ISG
Ysgol Nant Talwg, Barry.

STEVE JAMES
SG BUILDERS
for various projects.

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG
LABC CYMRU

STEVE NORTHAM
TAYLOR WIMPEY
Scholars View, Cowbridge.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

THE SPONSORS

GLAMORGAN GEM

THE Glamorgan GEM is proud to once again co-sponsor the twelfth annual Vale of Glamorgan Building Awards.

As the Vale's most widely-distributed weekly newspaper, we are committed to supporting the community as a whole, and local businesses in particular.

As such, it gives us genuine pleasure to publicly acknowledge their professional achievements – and what better way to do this than through these prestigious Vale of Glamorgan Council awards?

The nominees listed in this special supplement had to fight off formidable competition to get this far and they can be justifiably proud of themselves

The GEM, too, is pleased to play its part in honouring this Vale success story.

Recognition must be given to Jan Irving, who has co-ordinated the awards supplement for The GEM for twelve years.

Caroline Attya, General Manager

A JEWSON LOT MORE

WITH over 600 branches across the country, Jewson is the UK's leading supplier of sustainable timber and building materials.

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In addition to timber and building materials, Jewson also has specialist landscaping, joinery, insulation, tool hire, brick, kitchen and bathroom centres up and down the country.

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NINA Chivers has been operating as an estate agent since the 1990s, and over the years has earned a reputation as one of the most innovative and well known independent estate agents in The Vale.

Nina Estate Agents Ltd have a sales and lettings office that operates in the most fashionable, desirable and sought-after areas.

We offer a range of services that extend well beyond simple sales and lettings, such as property management, refurbishment advice and regular up-to-date feedback on the progress of your property listings.

We also believe in supplying our clients with current information to ensure that they are able to make the best decisions possible.

We appear regularly in local newspapers such as The Glamorgan GEM, all portals and our Facebook page.

All of our sales and letting agents undergo regular in-house training to ensure that they remain on top of movement in the property market.

In addition, Nina Estate Agents Ltd conforms to all of the regulations and guidelines as outlined by the industry's regulatory bodies (NAEA), so you can rest assured that we are an estate and letting agent that you can trust.

ACD SKIPS

ACD Skips is a family-run company that was set up in Bridgend as a one-lorry operation in 1993.

The company has grown in size quite considerably and has overcome many hurdles, due to the vast changes in Environmental legislation and waste policies.

It currently runs a fleet of waste collection vehicles with its own maintenance facility, and operates a materials recycling centre at premises on Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend, which is a central base with easy M4 access.

The company is progressive, is open to any new waste reduction initiatives, and actively pursues new waste recycling ideas.

It continues to source waste streams to recycling end-users. Understanding the requirements of its customers, together with good service, remains a top priority.

THE VALE RESORT

THE Vale Resort will be strengthening its conference facilities even further in 2015 as Hensol Castle opens its doors to the business market from April.

The Vale Resort offers conference suites designed with today's business clientele in mind and can cater comfortably for 10-700 delegates with a choice of 11 multi-functional business suites.

In 2014 the resort was privileged to host the players for the Seniors Open Golf Championships, heads of state from three countries for the NATO Summit and Real Madrid for the EUFA European Super Cup and are proud to be home to the Wales Rugby team, Cardiff City FC and Cardiff Blues RFC.

Hensol Castle, a unique grade I listed stately home, will offer a new purpose-built Courtyard Hall to cater for 320 delegates theatre style and 200 banquet style. This will be complemented by four smaller conference rooms in the castle itself that can host between 60-120 delegates per room theatre-style.

The resort leisure facilities include 143 luxuriously appointed bedrooms, 2 championship golf courses, Wales' largest spa, award winning dining, and exceptional sporting facilities. Add to this, ample FREE parking, WIFI, easy access off the M4 – and it's easy to see why the Vale Resort is the ideal location for business and for pleasure.

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Mae'r Cynghorydd Howard Hamilton, Faer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn dymuno pob llwyddiant i'r rhai a enwebwyd am Wobrau Adeiladu Cyngor y Fro.

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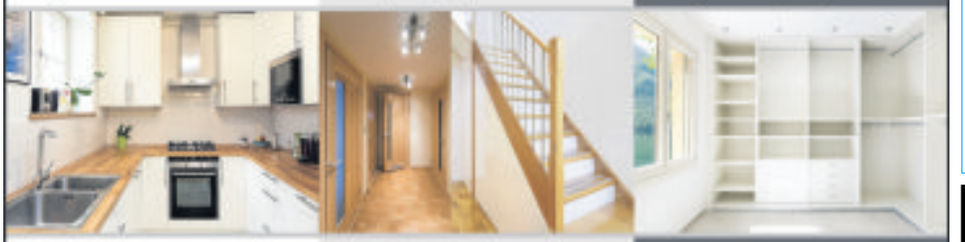

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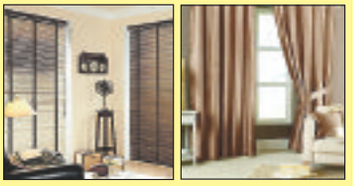

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01493/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of two detached dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad: Plot 1 and Plot 2, River Walk, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00057/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed kitchen extension to existing dwelling and proposed detached garage/store/family room to rear garden (in place of existing garage)
Location:/Lleoliad: Glen Cottage, 39, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01121/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair and replace single glazed windows with double glazing windows to match existing design and colour (Green/White) repair or replace external doors - some with S/G inset Panels with matching design and colour (green/White) - some with D/G Inset Panels. Replace Porch (mo.1) - Double Glazed to match existing
Location:/Lleoliad: 1-6 Cottages, Church Row, Pendoylan
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01359/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Installation of CCTV camera and associated power feed
Location:/Lleoliad: Eastern Shelter, Eastern Promenade, Barry Island
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00052/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Illuminated new signage
Location:/Lleoliad: 4, Westgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01521/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Covered double garage set within garden topography with green roof
Location:/Lleoliad: Penybryn, Pen y Lan Road, Aberthin
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Penybryn, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01401/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development on land to the north and south of Leckwith Road, (including land at Leckwith Motor Company) and associated ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Leckwith Motor Company, Leckwith Road, Llandough, Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01490/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays to provide approximately 5MW generation capacity together with power inverter systems; transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; deer fencing, CCTV and associated access gate.
Location:/Lleoliad: Llancadle Farm, Llancadle

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01424/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of agricultural land to residential development (C3) including the development of 124 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping, highway improvements and associated engineering works.
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off St. Brides Road, Wick

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2014/01401/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development on land to the north and south of Leckwith Road, (including land at Leckwith Motor Company) and associated ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Leckwith Motor Company, Leckwith Road, Llandough, Penarth

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Dated / Dyddiedig: 29 January, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Properties of the Week

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Five-vehicle M4 collision ends up with 28 people taken to south Wales hospitals

by GEM REPORTER

A five vehicle collision took place on the M4 on Saturday, January 24, and 28 people were taken to hospital.

The incident took place on the eastbound section of the motorway just before midday near junction 34. It involved a coach with people from the Maesteg area heading to the Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

One casualty was airlifted to hospital and 27 others were taken by ambulance to a number of hospitals in south Wales

A Welsh Ambulance Service spokesperson said staff received a call at 11.50am.

"We were called to reports of a multi-vehicle road traffic collision on the M4 near junction 34. We responded with six emergency ambulances, five 'high dependency service' vehicles, two rapid response vehicles, an advanced paramedic practitioner, two patient care service vehicles, a doctor and two helicopters.

"There were 38 patients at scene, 28 of whom were taken to hospitals, including the Princess of Wales Hospital, the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, the University Hospital of Wales and Prince Charles Hospital.

Tracy Myhill, chief executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service, said she and the trust were proud of the staff who were involved in dealing with the incident.

She said: "Their professionalism is a credit to the service."

The Fire Service used cutting equipment to get casualties out of vehicles and staff also gave first aid.

A police spokeswoman said that most of the casualties were classed as 'walking wounded'.

"Six of them were more serious although none are believed to be life threatening or life changing.

"The bus is understood to have contained people from the Bridgend area travelling to Cardiff to see a show.

"A further collision occurred in the westbound carriageway at the same location a few minutes later where a vehicle towing another vehicle overturned. There were no injuries in this collision.

"Delays were encountered in both directions as the collisions were dealt with."

The police spokeswoman also made this appeal: ***"Anyone who witnessed the collision involving the bus who have not already given their details to police is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101".***

African Children's Choir is welcomed to Senedd by AM

Jane Hutt AM, Graham Ellis and the African Children's Choir.

THE African Children's Choir visited the Senedd during its trip to Wales and were welcomed by Jane Hutt, the Vale AM, and the First Minister, Carwyn Jones.

Graham Ellis, who organised the choir's visit, accompanied the children to the Senedd, who later performed at a concert at St David's Hall Cardiff. The children all came from Uganda, where Jane Hutt lived as a child.

DYFFRYN STAFF IN BIG PORTHCAWL BEACH CLEAN-UP!

DYFFRYN GARDENS staff are cleaning up Coney beach in Porthcawl this week – to help celebrate 50 years of the successful coastline campaign 'Project Neptune', and get ready for the thousands of day-trippers and holiday-makers this spring and summer.

Project Neptune was launched in 1965 and is the National Trust's longest running appeal. It raises funds and helps to look after more than 740 miles of coastline in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. So far, the campaign has raised over £65 million.

The task was the brainchild of a gardener at Dyffryn Gardens, Dan Staniforth, who regularly visits the beach to surf: "I try and do some litter picking before work, but it's amazing how quickly the litter builds up. Besides being unsightly to visitors to the beach, it is also harmful to the bird and animal species that live here, so we wanted to do something about it."

The Dyffryn team will be at Coney Beach in Porthcawl on Friday, January 30 from 10am to 1pm, and are asking residents to lend the team a hand, or just to say hello.

Anyone wanting to get involved in future projects should email dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information

Airline Links up Cardiff Airport

UK REGIONAL airline, LinksAir, operator of the north-south Wales air-link between Cardiff and Anglesey has announced a new daily weekday Norwich service from Cardiff Airport, commencing on April 20.

LinksAir will commence the new daily service on weekdays, with competitive air fares from just £59 one-way, including all taxes and charges.

The Cardiff-Norwich service will depart Cardiff Airport at Rhoose at 10:20am each morning, arriving at Norwich Airport a little over an hour later at 11:25am, saving over four hours on existing rail or road journey times.

"With a well-timed 2:20pm return service (1.20 pm on a Friday), this new air-link will allow significant time and cost savings on the current difficult cross-country journey so many have to endure," said Spencer Birns, aviation and business development director at Cardiff Airport.

"It is great to see LinksAir adding new routes from Cardiff and taking advantage of the opportunity to connect Wales even further.

"Norfolk and the East Anglian region will appeal to both business and leisure customers, as well as bring visitors in to Wales."

CHOIRS OF BARRY CONCERT

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans, invites the public to a Choirs of Barry concert on Friday, February 27 at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry at 7pm.

The concert will feature Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies' Choir and Barry Choral Society. Tickets, £5, are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA. For more information, contact 01446 704921, or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

You can follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

VARIOUS ROADS, CARDIFF AIRPORT (VARIOUS PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS TO VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS) (ANTI-TERRORISM) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

1. On the 29th January 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 14(1) and 22C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedules below.

2. The Order will come into operation on the 30th January 2015 and a copy of the Order may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

3. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 30th January 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

Except as provided by this Order:

No person shall proceed on foot or cause or permit any vehicle or cycle to proceed, stop or wait at any time, in the location specified within the Schedule below.

SCHEDULE

Location	All roads between the roundabout where the airport access road meets the A4226/B4265 and the junctions where the two airport access roads meet Port Road. Footpaths (Public Rights of Way) Penmark No's 9, 9A, 10, 15, 21, together with Restricted By-Way known as Penmark No 18 throughout their lengths
Reasons	These prohibitions, restrictions and limitations are made for the purpose of avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the roads; avoiding, reducing, or reducing the likelihood of, danger connected with terrorism or for a purpose relating to danger or damage connected with terrorism (as defined in Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000).
Duration	From 18.01 hours on 30th January 2015 for a maximum period of 18 Months.
Alt Route	The diversions for south east bound traffic will be from the roundabout adjacent to the Aircraft Maintenance Facility, then in a south easterly direction along the A4226 to the roundabout at the junction with Port Road then in a south westerly direction along Port Road, to the Airport and vice-versa. None for footpath closures.

Dated this 29th day of January 2015

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps, Wenvoe
CF5 6AA

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015

GORCHYMYN (GWRTHDERFYSGAETH) (DROS DRO) (GWAHARDD CERDDWYR A CHERBYDAU A CHYFYNGU AR EU SYMUDIADAU) FFYRDD AMRYWIOL, MAES AWYR CAERDYDD 2015

1. Ar 29 Ionawr 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adrannau 14(1) a 22C Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod.

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 30 Ionawr 2015, a chewch weld copi ohono yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

3. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod wedi methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 30 Ionawr 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw

Ac eithrio fel y darperir drwy'r Gorchymyn hwn:

Ni fydd unrhyw un yn cerdded nac yn peri nac yn caniatáu i gerbyd na beic symud, stopio neu aros yn y lleoliad a bennwyd yn yr Atodlen isod.

ATODLEN

Lleoliad	Pob ffordd rhwng y gylchfan lle y mae ffordd fynediad i'r maes awyr yn cwrdd â'r A4226/B4265 a'r cyffyrdd lle y mae'r ddwy ffordd fynediad i'r maes awyr yn cwrdd â Port Road. Llwybrau Troed (Hawliau Tramwy Cyhoeddus) Pen-marc rhifau 9, 9A, 10, 15, 21 a'r Ffordd Ddidramwy Gyfyngedig a adwaenir fel llwybr Pen-marc rhif 18, ar eu hyd.
Rhesymau	Diben y gwaharddiadau a'r cyfyngiadau hyn fydd un ai osgoi, lleihau ynteu lleihau'r posibilrwydd o berygl mewn perthynas â therfysgaeth (fel y'i diffinnir yn Adran 1 Deddf Terfysgaeth 2000).
Cyfnod	O 06.01pm ar 30 Ionawr 2015 am 18 mis ar y mwyaf.
Llwybr arall	Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r de-ddwyrain yn cael ei ddargyfeirio o'r gylchfan ger y Cyfleustra Cynnal a Chadw Awyrennau, i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain, ar hyd yr A4226 hyd at y gylchfan wrth y gyffordd â Port Road. Bydd yn symud ymlaen wedyn i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin ar hyd Port Road, i'r maes awyr. Bydd traffig o'r cyfeiriad arall yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith. Ni fydd llwybr amgen ar gyfer defnyddwyr y llwybrau troed a gaewyd.

Dyddiedig 29 Ionawr 2015

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô
CF5 6AA

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Happy with the council – *as it is!*

ONCE again, our elected masters in the Westminster Parliament and now in Cardiff, are treating our counties and councils in Wales like some giant chess set!

The ultimatum from the Assembly to the Welsh Councils is, to merge voluntarily or "else we will do it for you"!

In the 40 years I have lived in Cowbridge, I have 'belonged' to Glamorgan, South Glamorgan and Vale of Glamorgan. In that time, Cowbridge has been administered from Pontypridd, milked by Cardiff to build the Bay, and now run from Barry.

I am happy with the way the Vale Council operates now. Maybe because it can flip flop between an elected Labour or Conservative administration, it keeps our councillors on their toes.

It is viable, self-contained, a well-run organisation, and has won various awards for its services over the years. It does not need to merge with anyone.

Any ratepayer who thinks a merger will reduce their council tax, only needs to look back to previous changes to dispel that idea.

Would our AM, Jane Hutt, like to take the message back to the Assembly: *"If it isn't broke don't mend it"*?

If she can't do this, then perhaps explain to us (because no one has yet!) where VoG are going wrong and how a merger would benefit those who pay the pipers without calling the tune!

I have heard, second-hand, that the idea is to save money on the reduction in the number of councillors and on the administrations.

Is it a just a coincidence that our Masters want to increase the number of Assembly Members, enlarge the Chamber, and award themselves an inflation-busting pay rise?

HT Hailes,
Cowbridge.

'Merge with Cardiff – and not Bridgend'

WHAT on earth has possessed the Vale Council to think its residents want to merge with Bridgend?

They have been told by the majority that merging with Cardiff is the preferred option.

The council has never been good at listening to what residents want or don't want, and dismiss our views as irrelevant to the cause.

I would love to have been a fly on the wall to hear the discussions, especially the private conversations between the Vale and Bridgend on the matter.

Once again, Vale residents have been dismissed and stitched up by the council because in their view we do not count.

This matter should have gone to a vote – it's the residents who should have been given the choice – not those who were supposedly elected to do right by us.

They can't do right by their employees from what I hear, judging by the number of people who have supposedly lost their jobs to contractors.

Anne Usher,
Barry.

'Whatever happened to moral principles?

AT the end of World War Two, a minority of the population shared the vision of the PM, Clem Attlee, that we should create a totally different kind of society.

It would be based upon the ideals of universal health care and full employment, rather than return to the unjust economics and society of the 1930s, which was the intention of those who benefited most from that.

Full employment had been an essential part of the nation's response to war, so Atlee thought decent citizens might recognise this chance to build a society based on principles.

However, Labour was voted out of power at the next election – to embrace once more, the British class divisions of the 1930s.

What is interesting is the complete change in the popular culture since that time, whereby the very notion of founding the national economy upon any form of moral principle, such as full employment, or any other ideal, such as honesty in commerce, has no appeal to the great majority of voters.

Mostly, the citizens are obsessed with personalities, rather than principles, but their method of measuring human life is largely based on money.

"Where is the money to come from?" they ask, as if they did not know that presently it is grossly wasted on oligarchs.

If Atlee were with us today, the ideals which inspired his life would find no echo in the beliefs of today's population, who absorb their values from the TV screen.

C N Westerman,
Brynna.

'Obstacles in the way of recycling'

WITH the announcement of the closure of all small recycling banks in the Vale of Glamorgan, I and others find it very hard to take on board the pathetic excuse that these facilities are being abused by the public and fly tippers in particular.

Where on earth do we get these people from? They pride themselves on their ability to make so-called sensible and economical decisions, when in actual fact, they contribute to the major problem of fly tipping in the first place.

Half the time these recycling banks are full to overflowing because they do not collect from these sites often enough. When they have closed them down, there is obviously going to be increased fly tipping elsewhere, in country lanes and by the roadside.

If there are fly tippers guilty of tipping at these recycling banks, then that is a good thing and not a bad thing – because at least the authorities will be aware of where to clean up, rather than sending a lorry at taxpayers' expense to places like the picnic area on the Five Mile Lane each and every time they get a complaint from these areas (which will increase a hundredfold after the closure of recycling banks).

This will cost them thousands of pounds more than if they kept these banks open.

They should make it known that you can deposit any form of recycling at these banks, instead of the antiquated system of permit-only at recycling centres. Some tradesmen, for example, will not take their items to the centres because they have to pay to deposit their items of no further use at these recycling centres.

The tradesmen then dump this stuff all over the Vale, leaving the council to clean up at a considerably higher cost than if they allowed the tradesmen access to the recycling centres free of charge.

It beggars belief that in an age where we are all being educated on the benefits of making a greener planet by maximum recycling of our unwanted goods, that we get obstacles put in our way which prevent us from doing what is Government advice.

I can assure readers that each time I see evidence of fly tipping anywhere in the Vale, I will personally report it by the hour until it is removed. They say that recycling banks are costing too much money, they should look at the money they waste on schemes like refurbishing council chambers and the money wasted on council staff/officials exit packages, (over £3.5m in a four year period).

We, the humble council taxpayers, have to foot these bills and then suffer cuts to essential services, such as recycling bank closures and library closures etc.

Barrie V Evans,
(*Coordinator, Barry First Group, Barry Voice, FocusBarry Supporter*).

'Scrap the Police Commissioner'

ONCE again, we are to see a five per cent rise in the cost we pay for our local police force – which is above inflation and will hit our pockets.

When you think of the costs for the Police Commissioner and his staff, isn't it time we scrapped this post and gave the job to the Welsh Government?

Surely, it would be much better to spend the money directly on frontline policing. So how about all the political parties promising to scrap these costly jobs at the next election?

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry,
Independent, Vale Council.

'Take action over NHS problems'

CARWYN JONES AM in his recent article was trying to defend the indefensible against the onslaught from Westminster, where Tories are slating him and his Labour-led Government for the state of our NHS here in Wales.

I certainly don't hold any liking for Cameron or his Tory Government, but on this issue he is right. Under Carwyn Jones and Mark Drakeford, our NHS in Wales has gone back to the dark ages.

We have our own doctors and nurses writing to newspapers informing us of the dire straits and the pressures they are under due to lack of funding.

In one paper today, there is a headline stating that A&E times at Welsh accident and emergency hospitals are the worst since records began. The Welsh Government's target for people to be seen within four hours is 95 per cent, yet it is barely reaching 81 per cent.

At the UHW, the figure is 74.5 per cent; at the Princess of Wales Hospital it is even worse. It's no good throwing more money at the NHS, it's much too late, the damage has been done, thanks to Labour Government incompetence.

DJ Radford,
Barry.

Visitors'view of development plan at Darren Farm

WE visit your shores on a regular basis for holidays and often make Cowbridge our base to visit various parts of the UK.

We love the fact that Cowbridge is an outstanding historic market town, with great charm and character, currently unspoilt by huge housing estates, unlike many equivalent English market towns.

It is with dismay that we heard recently of the planning application to build 390 houses at Darren Farm on the outskirts of the town.

Our concern is that this proposal would destroy a beautiful greenfield site and marvelous views to the west of Cowbridge, thus potentially establishing a precedent for further development.

It would be a travesty to rob this unique market town of its special character, especially as we understand there are alternative brownfield sites in the Vale, with established rail links.

In addition, as parking is already at a premium in Cowbridge, the development would add significantly to traffic and parking congestion, which would undoubtedly impact on residents and visitors alike – not to mention pressure on services.

We hope your readers will take our concerns into consideration and take the time to make representations to the council, opposing the said development, before the February 5 deadline.

We believe the quickest way to do this is to visit the 'Save Darren Farm' website, or write to Mr M Goldsworthy at the dock office, Barry, quoting planning reference 2014/01505/OUT.

Matthew and
Tara Busch,
Los Angeles, California.

Price stability?

THE Bank of England Governor wants to "... ensure price stability by bringing inflation back (up) to 2 per cent". Words change their meanings, but he could clarify "stability" by saying that effectively he wants to make all weights and measures smaller by 2 per cent a year.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge

The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

'WRITER DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE MAJORITY'

I WAS really surprised last week to read the letter from an anonymous writer taking The GEM to task for printing articles in Welsh, on the basis that it was "pandering to a minority".

In a world where so much unhappiness is being caused by intolerance, it is really saddening to discover intolerance on our own doorstep.

My only consolation is that I do not believe the writer is correct in asserting that theirs is the majority opinion.

Although more people in Cowbridge speak English, it does not follow that they are anti-Welsh language.

I have discussed the article with a lot of English-speaking friends over the last few days, and not a single person has supported the writer's views.

As a Welsh person who does not speak Welsh, it makes me very proud every time I hear Welsh spoken in Cowbridge, to know that the language is thriving and growing – and I certainly don't feel alienated.

When I saw the Welsh feature in The GEM, I was genuinely pleased that another opportunity was being given to promote the Welsh language.

I would also like to point out the inaccuracy of the statement that "*it is no surprise that many are now moving away to secure better education, better paid jobs and a better lifestyle*." Now?

Is the writer unaware of Welsh history and current demographic trends?

Pupils go where the courses they want to study are offered. With a smaller number of higher education establishments than England, it has always been the case that a lot of our students move away to study.

How gratifying then to discover that Cardiff University has just jumped from 35 in the University League Tables to 23 – an unprecedented change.

At secondary and primary school level, Cowbridge has enviable education provision. My friends living in London have nearly all put their children in private education because of the difficulty of securing a place at good schools – yet great education is something we take for granted in Cowbridge, and is a primary reason new families move here.

The writer is right to state that people move away for better paid jobs to places like London and the home counties; but I moved to London for a better paid job 35 years ago, so what's changed?

Isn't it equally true that people move to London from the West Country, the north-east, and other parts of England – yet they're not escaping the Welsh language.

However, it is the last assertion about a better lifestyle that raises a smile and proves the writer has no credibility. Cowbridge and the Vale of Glamorgan nears the top of the polls every year for best place to live in Britain. Fact.

My English husband urged us to move back to Cowbridge from London to give our family a better lifestyle.

He was right. Hir yn byw y iaith Gymraeg (am hoping I got this right as I used a translation app).

Long live the Welsh language!

Eluned Moran,
Cowbridge.

'Don't blame Welsh for the nation's ills'

THE dinosaurs of Cowbridge have woken early this year. The GEM is a valued newspaper for all the citizens of the Vale.

There are seven Welsh medium primary schools (one of which is in Cowbridge) and a Welsh medium comprehensive school serving our county.

Welsh as a second language is taught in all the other primary and secondary schools, as required by the Government of Wales.

It appears that the person who wrote to you anonymously would like people who are Welsh speaking not to spend their money shopping, eating and drinking anywhere in Cowbridge. How bizarre!

And no, dear anonymous letter writer, the Welsh language cannot be blamed for the state of the economy, etc.

It is the policies of the central Government in London that have got us into the mess you describe.

D Gareth Evans,
Y Barri.

CLUB LOOKS BACK ON A BUSY YEAR

Photographs by **IAN DIXON**

ABOVE: Chris and his team of caterers.

THE Peterston-super-Ely Flower and Gardening Club held its annual dinner recently in the community church hall.

Around 100 members enjoyed a splendid meal, provided by Chris and his young team, and quizzes and raffles kept the evening flowing along merrily.

The chairman, David Smart, commented that "there is always a warm welcome awaiting new members, whether beginners or experts."

He added that the club holds monthly meetings with guest speakers, plus social gatherings and trips to gardens, grand houses and garden centres.

Readers' Letters

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'DARREN FARM PLAN SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN'

I WRITE in support of Mr Paul Jeremy's articulate and well-argued letter in last week's GEM.

Your readers will be fully aware by now of the planning application for the development of 390 houses and a new highway from the A48 to the Llantwit Road. Objections to it must be submitted before February 5. These should be based on the widely available arguments presented by the Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents' Group.

Should the link road be built – it would have to come first – the housing would be built over some years, depending on market conditions obtaining at the time. It is likely that contracts for the building of houses will be let to more than one firm: CEG are not housebuilders.

However much the designers can now demonstrate a unity of overall design, the history of such large scale schemes shows that over a long time period standards will vary.

In order to achieve the economies of scale required to show a satisfactory return on their investment, mass builders have to employ an industrial system of building. Economics dictate that such components have to be used regardless of geographical location and local styles of building.

In effect, the parts of the houses will be delivered on lorries and assembled on site. This estate will look like any other, part of what is called the 'no place realm', with little sympathy for historic Cowbridge.

What may now appear on paper as an attractive scheme, aesthetically speaking, in the fullness of time will probably deteriorate into the usual large peripheral estate of mass housing located on a windswept hill traversed by a high speed road and remote from the heart of Cowbridge.

I wrote initially opposing this development when it formed part of the Vale of Glamorgan's latest Local Development Plan, which it still does. However, this application is in advance of the approval of that plan.

What is it that motivates a successful local business to 'jump the gun' in this instance? If its case is a sound one – and clearly I do not think it is – what is to be lost by withdrawing this application and presenting the scheme as part of the LDP where it will be judged by the planning inspectorate?

Even if the current application is defeated, the scheduling of housing on Darren Farm land could, of course, remain in the LDP, which is what the Welsh Assembly Government wants, so that its target for housing is met – anywhere and at any cost to local communities.

I urge the people of Cowbridge to oppose this application by writing to the Vale Council.

RJ Buswell,
Cowbridge.

'Build in Barry or Llandow, not Darren Farm'

WHEN the last council elections were held in 2012, the Labour party pledged to 'scrap' the Local Development Plan (LDP).

This was replaced by their own LDP, similar in many cases, but with a significant difference in that there was a reduction in the proposed housing for Barry, balanced by an increase in housing provision for the rural Vale.

The largest of these was a new proposal for 390 houses at Darren Farm – an area where in 2003 the planning inspector appointed by the National Assembly rejected the appeal by developers to build 145 homes.

Many of the points raised in that inquiry are still valid: for example, the planning inspector considered that in the case of walking from the site "*the centre is too far away and the gradients too steep for comfortable trips*..."

In effect, people will mainly drive from that area into Cowbridge town centre, adding to the existing traffic congestion and parking problems.

The Vale Council Planning Department vigorously opposed the original development at the planning inquiry and it will be interesting to see how they can now support a development of almost three times the number of houses.

The Darren Farm site is in the 2013 Draft LDP which still has to be approved by the Welsh Government.

Unfortunately, the developers have submitted a planning application in advance of the decision. We are not happy with the proposals and will be objecting to this planning application.

At the 2003 appeal on Darren Farm, many individuals, including Jane Hutt AM, made representations against the proposals. We hope that they will join us in objecting to the latest plans for Darren Farm and also hope that many members of the public will make their views known.

There are also housing developments proposed in the LDP for many of the villages in the rural Vale which will change their character.

We believe that the Vale Council should, therefore, look at further building in Barry and reconsider the development of the brownfield site at Llandow, instead of threatening the countryside and communities.

Geoffrey Cox,
Hunter Jarvie,
Conservative members for Cowbridge ward, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

MYSTERY KEY

LAST Thursday, January 22, a lady left a key at our house, saying to my husband that my sisters and I knew all about it. Unfortunately, we don't!

The key is marked '*Philip's key*' on a rubber holder attached to a leather key fob marked '*Yildirim Kemer*'. Somebody somewhere must now be wondering where their key is.

I have given my contact details to The GEM. (***Name and address supplied***).

TO LET ON LICENCE

THE FOLLOWING GRAZING LAND IS AVAILABLE BY INFORMAL TENDER FROM 1st APRIL 2015 - 31st JANUARY 2016:

2.58 acres - opp. Manor House, Sully Road, Penarth

Closing date for receipt of completed Tenders is **12 NOON FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2015**

Contact: Dean Lacey, Estates Section,
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices,
Holton Road,
Barry CF63 4RU
Tel: 01446 709335

Email: delacey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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sales@chris-davies.co.uk

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NEW PRICE
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3 Beds. 2 Recps
Views of Countryside
Quiet Close
£179,950 D56

NEW SSTC
Brecon Street, Llantwit Major
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Combi Boiler
£154,950

NEW
Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
Garage
Private Garden
£224,950 E52

NEW PRICE
Monmouth Way, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Garage
£204,500

NEW PRICE
Monmouth Way, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Garage
£204,950 C72

Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
Building Plot, 4 Beds, 2 Recps
Detached
£85,000

NEW PRICE
Gileston Road, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
GCH Combi
Log Burner
£125,000 D59

NEW
Walnut Grove, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
GCH Combi
£104,950 D67

NEW
Higher End, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Barn Conversion
Southerly Garden
£369,950 E54

NEW
Picketston Close, St. Athan
3 Bedrooms,
Conservatory
Quiet Cul De Sac
£125,000

NEW
Higher End, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
90' Garden. Garage
£265,000 D57

NEW
Shackleton Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Kitchen/Diner
Well Presented
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NEW SSTC
Stallcourt Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions
Corner Plot
£179,950 D63

NEW PRICE
Crawshay Drive, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
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Hockey 'A' team maintain unbeaten run...while seniors suffer heavy loss

PENARTH Hockey Club's Second XI maintained their unbeaten run into a sixth game with victory at home, but there was bad news for the senior team on their Davis Wood Hockey League travels.

PENARTH 'A' 3-2 WHITCHURCH 'G'

Returning to action after an enforced one-week break thanks to the recent cold snap, Penarth's 2nd XI entertained Whitchurch 'G' at Colcot Sports Centre looking to further extend a rare unbeaten streak stretching back to the fixture with Whitchurch 'F' in late November.

Able to field a strong side, featuring a blend of youth and experience, Penarth started the stronger with the industrious Nathan Townsend and wily Rob Harrison providing the link between defence and attack.

The cutting edge was missing up front, however, until Dave Watkins was introduced midway through the half, but the veteran immediately linked up with Rory Vizard to put the home side ahead.

Whitchurch refused to be bowed by falling behind, and increased the pressure on Penarth's goal, with the Bears grateful to have Jason Harris between the sticks as he frustrated the visitors' best efforts to the interval. Penarth could have gone further ahead shortly before the break, only for Craig Llewellyn's penalty corner strike to be unwittingly deflected past the post by a defender.

Despite their opponents' lowly position in De Cymru 2, Penarth knew that they had to get quick goals in order to settle the game but, as has become habit, allowed the visitors' to get back on terms by conceding an early equaliser.

With Whitchurch earning a string of penalty corners, the next few minutes were nervy for the home side, before a double strike midway through the half appeared to put the game to bed.

Watkins added a second to restore the Vale side's advantage, before Penarth turned defence into attack as Llewellyn retrieved a stray ball deep in his own 25 and a quick series of passes set up Paul Thomas to double the margin.

Whitchurch refused to go quietly, however, and continued to put pressure on the home defence, pulling one goal back late on before veterans Graeme Jones, Paul Roberts and Zbig Sobierserski went into lockdown mode.

A late penalty corner threat was nullified shortly before the final whistle sounded, giving Penarth a hard-fought 3-2 victory that confirms sixth spot in their division ahead of a string of fixtures with higher-placed teams.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY 'A' 5-1 PENARTH

Two high-scoring victories either side of the Christmas break saw Penarth's senior team head to Llys Tal-y-Bont in confident spirits, only to have the bubble burst by a well-organised Cardiff University side.

The 5-1 reverse made a dent in Penarth's recently-repaired goal difference, but the Bears remain seventh overall in De Cymru & The Marches 1, and still within touching distance of the top four with eight matches remaining.

With the 2nds taking a week off due to the odd number of teams in De Cymru 2, only the 1st XI will be in action this weekend, hosting a high-flying Hereford side that inflicted a heavy defeat on the Vale side earlier in the season.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers, regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Ninja kids put on demo show

Three ninjas getting their first belt.

YOUNG students from Vale based Tae Kwon Do School, JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness, put on a display for parents, family and friends as they helped to launch new classes at St Nicholas Hall, Barry on February 16.

The youngsters, aged from three to five years old, showcased the skills they have learned at 'Ninja Kids', JSTKD's programme aimed at the most junior group of budding martial artists.

Saturday's event saw a record number of children attaining their latest colour Ninja belts.

Visit www.jstkd.co.uk for full details or call on 07711 234500.

VW

AM PRAISES SUPPORT FOR TY HAFAN CHARITY

Jane Hutt AM and the Aberthaw team with donations for Ty Hafan.

LAST week, Vale AM Jane Hutt met Aberthaw Power Station staff, who had collected 30 bags of donated goods for Ty Hafan children's hospice.

She welcomed the donations and thanked the team for their support for this wonderful charity.

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Property Address: 5 Windsor Court, Holmesdale Street, Grangetown, Cardiff. CF11 7HR. We are acting for the mortgagees in possession and have received an offer of £53,000 for the above mentioned property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the agent before exchange of contracts takes place. Allen & Harris 183 Cowbridge Rd East, Canton, Cardiff CF11 9AJ. T: 029 2022 2344
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Date of Notice: 30th January 2015. By order of the mortgagees in possession we advise that an offer of £35,000 has been received for 72 High Street, Porth, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF39 9AR. Any persons wishing to make an increased offer should notify the agents: Allen & Harris 83 Talbot Road, Talbot Green CF72 8AE. T: 01443 237667 of their best offer.
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Clydesmuir Road £94,950

• End of terrace
• Two bedrooms • Lounge
• Kitchen • Bathroom
• Front & rear gardens
• No onward chain
ROATH

Glyn Eiddew £124,950

• Mid terrace • Three bedrooms • Downstairs WC
• Lounge & dining room
• Kitchen • Family bathroom
• No onward chain
ROATH

Waterloo Road £329,950

• Mid terrace
• Three bedrooms
• Downstairs WC
• Fitted kitchen & dining area
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ROATH

Clos Alyn £159,950

• End of link • Two bedrooms
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• No onward chain
ROATH

Heol Pentwyn £145,000

• Mid terrace • Three bedrooms • Two reception rooms • Whitchurch School catchment • Requires modernisation • No chain
WHITCHURCH

Bardsey Crescent £187,500

• Semi detached • Three bedrooms • Beautifully presented • Generous sized plot • Utility room • Open House 7th Feb 2.30 -4pm
WHITCHURCH

Lon Y Celyn £275,000

• Traditional semi-detached bay fronted
• Three bedrooms plus loft room
• Wood block flooring
• Potential to extend
WHITCHURCH

Whitefield Road GUIDE £200,000

• Semi detached
• Cul de sac position
• Three bedrooms
• Two reception rooms
• In need of TLC
WHITCHURCH

River View £245,000

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WHITCHURCH

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NEW

TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
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£204,950

NEW

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£74,950

NEW

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted - end of terraced, two seperate rec. rooms, conservatory. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom. Hobby area, enclosed rear garden, original block flooring, viewing essential.
£164,950

NEW

ST NICHOLAS ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast. WC cloakroom, 5 bedrooms, gas central heating, partial sea views, garage with lane access. Well presented. ER=D.
£214,950

NEW

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, original stained glass windows, original black & white flooring. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, gas central heating. NO CHAIN.
£144,950

SSTC

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Period terraced property, spacious living accomodation, through living room, sitting room. 4 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, original features throughout. NO CHAIN.
£162,500

NEW

GEORGE STREET, BARRY
End of terraced, refurbished traditional, living room, spacious kitchen/diner. 2 double bedrooms, 2014 bathroom suite, replastered throughout, 2014 combi boiler, new carpets, NO CHAIN, ER=D.
£119,950

NEW

HERBERT STREET, BARRY
Traditional semi detached, well presented. 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, driveway & garage.
£134,950

NEW

CORA STREET, BARRY
Two double bedrooms & box room/study. Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, utility area, WC cloakroom. First floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. ER=E.
£112,500

NEW

LUCAS CLOSE, BARRY
Five bedrooms, master with ensuite, sitting room, living/dining room, fitted kitchen. Utility room, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden. Ample parking.
£167,500

NEW

POPLAR COURT, BARRY
Modern semi detached, driveway & side access. Well presented, fitted kitchen overlooking front. 2 bedrooms, cul de sac.
£114,950

NEW PRICE

COURTENAY ROAD, BARRY
End of terraced, refurbished throughout, living room with original fireplace. Sitting room, spacious fitted kitchen 2014. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom. Side access - enclosed garden. NO CHAIN, ER=D.
£152,000

NEW PRICE

GREENACRES, BARRY
Modern semi detached, 4 bedrooms, living room, sitting room or bedroom (converted garage). Fitted kitchen, enclosed private garden, paved driveway providing ample parking. ER=D.
£158,950

NEW PRICE

WELL WALK, BARRY
Semi detached, in need of modernisation, original features remaining. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, original dresser. WC cloak, spacious plot ideal for extending, double gates - off road parking, ER=D
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SSTC

MELYN Y GORS, BARRY
Modern detached, living through to dining room, 4 bedrooms, family bathroom & ensuite. Garage/driveway, enclosed rear garden, NO CHAIN. ER=C.
£224,950

BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
Three bedroomed semi detached. Extended traditional study, dining room, sunken lounge, enclosed garden. Large patio with far reaching views.
£199,950

GLEN MAVIS WAY, BARRY
Three bedroomed detached, constructed in the 1960s. Living room leading to dining room. Sitting room & conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage. Viewing recommended. ER=D.
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CORNWALL ROAD, BARRY
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£169,950

CWRT NEWTON POOL, RHOOSE
Modern end of terraced, constructed approx. 11 years, modern kitchen to front, living room, conservatory. 3 bedrooms (master ensuite). Driveway and garage, well presented. NO CHAIN.
£164,950

HEOL SIRHWI, BARRY
Two double bedrooms, semi detached bungalow. Viewing highly recommended. Living/dining room, well presented, cul de sac position, driveway providing ample parking, garage. NO CHAIN, EPC=D.
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SEAPOINT, BARRY
2nd floor. 1 Bedroom, views over the old harbour and the Knap. Kitchen/breakfast area, family bathroom, economy 7 heating - UPVC DG. Security door entry system. ER=D
£102,000

LEE ROAD, BARRY
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DAVID DAVIES HOUSE, BARRY
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Elevated mid terraced traditional, 2 seperate recep. rooms. Modern kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, well presented. NO CHAIN, ER=D.
£138,000

HOWARD COURT, BARRY
Two double bedroomed, ground floor apt, living room overlooking front. Modern fitted kitchen, shower room, garage/parking. NO CHAIN - Extended lease, ER=D.
£104,950

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
Spacious mid terrace, 3 double bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast, UPVC D/G & GCH via combi. Enclosed rear garden. ER=D.
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Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT

An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a

PREMISES LICENCE

To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below.

Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of : Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:-

Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Name of applicant: Mr Gareth Roberts.

Name and postal address of the premises:
Little Penybont Arms, 11 Penybont Road, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5PY.

Statement of intended licensable activities: (1)
Sale of alcohol from hours 1100 to 2300 Monday - Sunday.

Date by which representations must be made: Tuesday 17th February 2015.

This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 20th January 2015, for 28 consecutive days.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

DAVIES
Lydia Mary

On January 17 at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend after a long illness, Lydia of Llanblethian and formerly of Llanmihangel Farm. Beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved mother of Carole, Angela, Christine and Julia, much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday February 2, service 2pm at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by private interment. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to the Cystic Fibrosis Adult Centre at Llandough Hospital. Please make cheques payable to Better Life Appeal, c/o J.W. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

DAVIES
Glyn George

Died peacefully on January 13th, aged 86, well known for his time at The Welsh National School Of Medicine. Glyn, of Pontypridd Road, beloved husband of the late Jean, father to Andrew and Judi. Proud Grandad to Christopher, Louisa Kate, Matthew and Oliver.

Funeral service Friday, 6th February at 2pm in All Saints Church, Barry, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Barry at 3pm.

Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Ty Hafan, if desired. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis, The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

JOHNS
Patricia Mary

Peacefully on January 19 at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, Pat (nee Regan) of Rhoose and formerly of Penmark. Dearly loved mother of Mary, Jill and Peter, much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday February 3, service and interment 11.00am at Penmark Church. Flowers may be sent to Funeral Home.

AUDREY REES
of Llantwit Major

would like to say a big thank you to all her friends and family for their kindness and the many cards sent to her at this very sad time, due to the loss of Graham Davies.

JONES
Mair (nee Davies)

Originally from Pontarddulais, Mair lived for many years in West Pontnewydd, Llanyrafon, Cwmbran and latterly in Porthcawl. She died peacefully in Princess of Wales Hospital on Thursday, 15 January 2015, aged 85 years. Dearly loved wife of Chris, much loved mum of Heather and Christine and their husbands Rodger and Martyn, also loving grandmother to Beth, James and Jon.

Funeral service at Cowbridge United Free Church, Westgate, Cowbridge CF71 7AQ on Tuesday, 3 February at 11.45am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm, black not necessary. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the British Heart Foundation, c/o Mr Jack Hawkins, 10 Percy Smith Road, Boverton, Llantwit Major, CF61 1GW. All enquiries to Thomas Bros, St Brides Major, on 01446 775681.

LEWIS
Margaret (Peggy)

Peacefully on Sunday, January 18th at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness, Peggy Lewis of Aberthin, Cowbridge.

Beloved wife of the late Tom, devoted mother of Tony, Roger and Graham, loving mother-in-law of Lesley, Jan and Nick, caring grandmother of Gareth, Owen, Rhys and Rhodri, and fond great-grandmother of Lila.

Funeral service at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Wednesday, February 4th, 2015, at 12 noon, followed by a family only cremation at Coychurch. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to the Salvation Army, Cardiff, CF10 5TY, either directly or in the church collection.

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Len Jones

30th January 2015

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Happy 18th Birthday
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KARISHA DEE
on 28 January 2015

Lots of love from Mum, Dad, sisters, brothers, nieces & nephews xxx

Thank You

THANK YOU

Margaret and Michael Scobie would like to thank Sue, Ian & Sean and all our family and friends for their lovely gifts & cards and for making our Diamond Wedding Anniversary such a wonderful celebration.

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Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society raises funds for charity

GLAMORGAN Iron Horse recently organised a tractor run in aid of The Welsh Air Ambulance.

The event attracted over 70 tractors and four by four vehicles and was held in glorious sunshine.

All in, £1,500 was raised for the charity which relies solely on contributions made by the public.

The run took in outstanding scenery, a drive along the promenade in Porthcawl being one of the highlights.

A big thank you goes out to everybody involved, from the volunteers of The Air Ambulance, the organisers at Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society, the participants and to everyone who contributed to the very worthwhile cause.

Justin Legg,
chairman of Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society

PHOTOS by GERALD DODD

Meeting place for senior citizens

ARE you a senior citizen who wants to make new friends or would like a few hours out on a afternoon.

Why not come to the Senior Health Shop monthly afternoon tea? The next afternoon tea will be held on Wednesday, February 4, at 1.15pm with tea/coffee and scones, jam and cream with a free raffle and a quiz. The tea will be a Valentine theme.

The cost is £3, so why not call in and put your name down for a great afternoon. Contact 01446 773235 for further information.

Swimmers' thanks

BARRY Beavers would like, through The GEM, to give a 'big thank you' to Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club, for their kind donation at our coffee morning of three stopwatches and a cheque for a £100.

We are very grateful for their kind donation and are using the stopwatches every week.

Mrs Patricia Finch, (secretary/coach), Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club.

Building society's 35-year celebration

THE Vale Foodbank will receive a boost to its stock after the Cowbridge branch of Yorkshire Building Society celebrated its 35th year in the town by holding a party for customers and residents, and used the event to kick-start its collection for the food bank.

Colleagues donned leg warmers, tutus and fluorescent accessories in a nod to the branch's 1980 debut, donated non-perishable items to the cause and accepted gifts of tins, pasta and biscuits from people joining the celebrations.

Jon Tucker, manager of the Cowbridge branch of Yorkshire Building Society, said: "We had a brilliant day celebrating our anniversary and it was great to see so many faces, old and new, join us."

The High Street branch has recently been named as an official drop-off point for Vale Foodbank, and will continue to collect items until February 6.

As part of the branch's anniversary celebrations people were welcomed into the branch for cake and refreshments. Five-year-old Alfie was also presented with a giant Yorkshire bear after being the 35th person to pass through the doors at the event.

Chamber of trade meeting

THE next meeting of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade will be at 9am, Tuesday, February 3, in Bar 44.

Also, on Thursday, February 12, there will be a networking evening in the Bear Hotel, starting at 6pm. This event is organised jointly by the chamber of trade and the Cowbridge guide.

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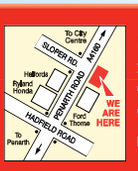

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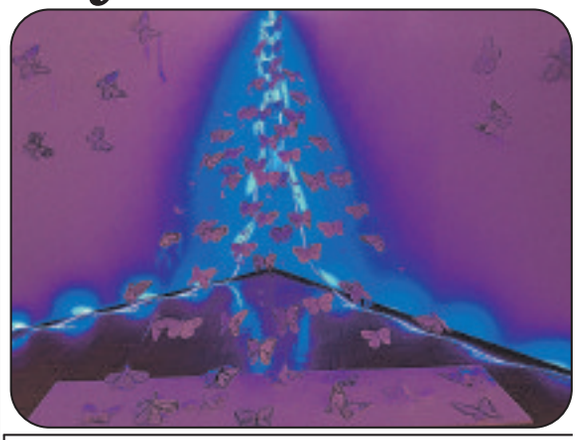
'Keep the memory alive' is vital theme as Holocaust Memorial Day is marked



ABOVE:
Tracey Harding, arts development officer and Art Central gallery manager, Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for art and culture, Nicola Tucker, conflict and war artist, Coun Howard Hamilton, Mayor of the Vale, Josephine Sowden, arts development assistant, Sally Richards, Wales national support worker for HMDT, David Jenkins, High Sheriff of South Glamorgan.

HOLOCAUST Memorial Day was marked on Tuesday (January 27), and as part of the commemoration, Art Central in Barry opened its Holocaust Memorial Exhibition on Monday evening.

The exhibition marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia.

This year, the theme of Holocaust remembrance is more relevant than ever due to the increase in anti-Semitism in Europe – Jewish people in France have been targeted by Islamic extremists, and it has been reported that last year, as many as 7,000 Jews moved from France to Israel.

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Coun Howard Hamilton, hosted the evening at Art Central.

The Mayor said: "This is the ninth year the council has staged an exhibition to commemorate this day.

"We have selected the national Holocaust Memorial Trust's theme *'Keep the Memory Alive'* and have delivered arts workshops to over 250 local school children.

"The workshops had a significant impact on the young people some of whom commented on their own personal experiences which enabled them to understand, explore and accept each other's differences.

"The combination of the children's work from the World War Two Terezin ghettos and the work by the school children of today has created an atmospheric exhibition that cannot fail to have a significant impact on the viewer.

"This moving and thought-provoking exhibition enables us to remember the past and consider the part we can play in challenging hatred and bullying to create a safer and better future for us all."

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for arts and culture told guests: "The Vale's Holocaust Memorial exhibition specifically focuses on art work and poetry created during the Second World War by the 'Children of the Terezin'. Terezin was a walled ghetto in the Czech Republic.

"During World War Two, 150,000 people were sent to Terezin – approximately three times the population of Barry here in the Vale – 15,000 of these were children; a mere 100 of these children survived the horrors of the camp, the others' lives cut short, their futures unjustly stolen, as many perished at Auschwitz.

"The ghetto killed many things, but it could not destroy the hope and creativity of the children; displayed within this exhibition are drawings and a few poems created by the young people whilst they were confined.

"The poem *'I haven't seen a Butterfly around Here'* inspired the installation of white butterflies created by the children in Vale primary schools who are honouring the memory of the children of Terezin.

"Working with over 250 primary school children in the Vale of Glamorgan, conflict and war artist Nicola Tucker, together with the council's arts development team, Tracey Harding and Josephine Sowden delivered workshops in schools for 9 – 11 year olds.

"The creative workshops focused on the history of the Second World War, and the impact it had on the 'Children of the Terezin'.

"Nicola and Tracey translated the eight steps of 'Genocide' into eight steps to 'Bullying'.

"The workshops focused on why we should be kind to each other, the workshops described Europe as the children's school playground and how that can be divided by individuals or groups of children to embrace or segregate others through name calling, or social media.

"The workshops had a significant impact on the young people some of whom commented on their own personal experiences.

"We also have on show the annual 'Race Equality First Calendar and Poster' designs themed 'We Are All Equal', created by children from Vale and Cardiff Schools."

LIBERATION

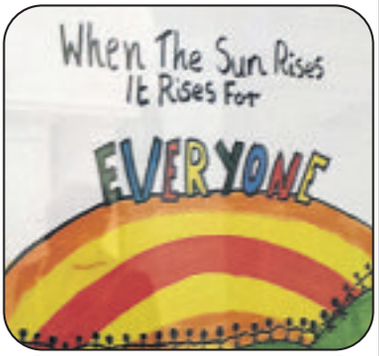
The High Sheriff of the South Glamorgan David Jenkins read the Stockholm declaration *'Statement of Commitment'* created on January 27, 2000, when representatives from 46 governments around the world met in Stockholm to discuss Holocaust education, remembrance and research.

At the end of that meeting, all attendees signed a declaration committing to preserving the memory of those who have been murdered in the Holocaust.

January 27, the date of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, was named Holocaust Memorial Day in 2001. Over the last 13 years thousands of events have taken place across the UK on or around this day to ensure the stories relating to the Holocaust are never forgotten.

Art Central Gallery is open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday. The 'Keep the Memory Alive' exhibition runs until Saturday, February 21, 2015.

For more information on the exhibition visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or contact the Arts Development Team on 01446 709805, or email artinthevale@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk .



MYSTERY DAMAGE TO HISTORIC FOUNTAIN

A HISTORIC fountain in the centre of old Dinas Powys has suffered massive damage and an appeal has been launched for information as to what caused it.

The fountain is built into a wall around the square which is in the shape of a triangle on the Twyn.

It is located at the junction of Station Road and Elmgrove Road and opposite The Horseshoes.

The supporting wall has also been badly damaged. Coun Chris Franks, chair of the community council, said people were upset to see what had happened to a part of the village's past.

He said: "The fountain has been smashed in two from what we can determine. This is a small link with our past and is a great shame.

"Although the water supply was cut off some time ago, it reminds everyone that not so long ago, Dinas Powys was a rural community.

"The wall was hit by a significant force. We suspect that a vehicle involved that was very powerful.

"We are investigating this matter and have obtained CCTV evidence which is being examined. However, if anyone has information, please let us know.

"The community council refurbished the fountain two years ago and had hoped that it would be in good repair for many years to come.

"The council has made the area safe and will now have to decide what is the best course of action."

Could a post office move to Barry Road?

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns has met a prospective new Post Office operator in Barry to discuss plans after Co-operative food stores announced the closure of the post office on Colcot Road.

Mr Cairns met Pam Dhesi from a nearby store to discuss the possibility of her store accommodating a new postal facility.

Pam Dhesi said: "I am keen to take over the running of the facility, and have spoken with the Post Office to register my interest. I discussed the potential of the site with Alun Cairns, and explained that I have previously operated a successful post office. It is a natural fit for our store."

Mr Cairns said: "I am very pleased that we have been able to identify a new site so quickly in Barry. The decision by the Co-op is disappointing, but to have such an experienced and capable operator in Pam and her team is very good news. I have been in touch with the Post Office to support the bid."

Vale AM Jane Hutt has met Mike Ash-Edwards of the Co-operative Group to protest about the recent announcement of the closure of the Colcot Road (Williams Store) post office.

She reported: "I told Mr Ash-Edwards that there has been a post office at the Williams Store for over 30 years and its closure would be a huge loss to the community – especially following the recent closure of Highlight Park post office.

"I have urged him to re-consider," she added.

'HUB' SCHOOLS SET TO PROVIDE IMPROVEMENTS

FIFTEEN schools from across south Wales, including the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs, have been chosen by the Central South Consortium to offer school improvement programmes from January.

The schools are named Olevi Hubs, which have been accredited by leading training firm Olevi International.

They will construct support programmes which can be accessed by the 408 schools across central south Wales.

Coun Chris Elmore, Vale cabinet member for children's services, said: "What has been established is a network through which some of the best schools in Wales can share the knowledge and expertise that have brought them success."

They included: Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg; '4Schools' (a collaboration between Barry Island Primary School, Cadoxton Primary School, Rhws Primary School and Romilly Primary School); Y Pant Comprehensive School; Maesteg School.

Barry Seconds hold out for win

BARRY 2nd XV finally got the 2015 under way as they hosted Clwb Rygbi in damp conditions at Reservoir Fields.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were once again put to the test with late withdrawals, forcing them to hand Chris Parker a return to rugby after 18 months out, while Gareth Hall and Jordan Clarke were promoted from the successful 3rd XV last weekend.

The visitors coped better with the conditions early on, as they were assisted by the wind and slope and put the Barry tight five under enormous pressure, especially at scrum time.

The home line-out fared no better either, and this gave Clwb Rygbi the opportunity to lay siege to the Barry line, and the pressure duly told after 15 minutes when they crashed over for a well-worked try.

Barry huffed and puffed but could not give their backs quality ball from which they could work with, and instead were dominated by their visitors' forwards who appeared to be fitter. It seemed as if this was going to be a fruitless afternoon for the green-and-whites.

However, in a five minute period the game turned on its head. First, from inside their own 22, Richie O'Sullivan ran when he could have kicked, creating the space necessary for centres Busuttil and Dicks to work with, and Dave Evans was on hand to finish well in the corner. O'Sullivan was unable to add the extras but Barry were back in the game.

In the blink of an eye the game has taken a turn, and Barry poured forward in search of their second try. It duly came, again from great interplay with the backs, and this time Evans turned provider for the supporting Rhidian Mepham to score near the posts. O'Sullivan added the extras.

Back came Clwb Rygbi however, and following some naïve defending and indiscretion in the contact area, Barry were punished with a try near their posts with the conversion a formality.

At halftime the game was nicely poised, and coach Scott emphasised the need to secure home ball in the contact area.

His point was duly noted, and when Parker was sent on as reinforcement early in the second half, Barry took a stranglehold in the game.

Fly half O'Sullivan put his side ahead with a well-struck penalty 10 minutes into the second half. Now looking increasingly threatening, Barry pressurised the CRCC backline into errors that gave the home side territory and possession – an advantage that they would not relent.

After camping deep in the away 22 patiently, Mepham finally found Lloyd Dutton, who crashed through to score. O'Sullivan added the extras to put his side two scores ahead.

There were to be no comeback for the visitors as they were denied even a losing bonus point for their efforts despite laying siege to the Barry line late on.

The resolute defending was a reflection of the grit and determination shown by the home side to secure a win in the first time of asking in 2015. Final score 22-14.

The 2nd XV will travel to Glamorgan Wanderers this weekend, while the 3rd XV visit Dinas Powys.

Team: Adams; D Evans, Busuttil, Dicks, Knapman; O'Sullivan, Mepham; Thomas, Turnbull, Pirso; Dutton, Oaten; Morris, Jones ©, Rolfe. Replacements: Hall, J Evans, Parker, Clarke. Man of the match: Mepham.

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THE BARRY DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

On January 16, the BFC Allsorts finally lost their unbeaten record by losing 12-9 away to the Billy Ghosts.

The Cwm Talwg had a big 21-0 win away to the Hell Raisers with Nicky Smith hitting a 180.

The Poachers overcame the Caddy Cons Raiders 17-4 with Jon Hurn, Terry Williams and Ray Way all hitting 180s.

The Mariners beat the Loungers 17-4 and the Plastics had a 12-9 win against the Wanderers.

The Park Weasels had a 15-6 away win against the Tynewydd while the Dockers overcame the Runways 13-8.

On January 23, the BFC Allsorts beat the Raiders 18-3 with John Morgan hitting a 114 out shot and Peter deSouza hitting a 106 out.

The Tynewydd traveled to Rhoose to get a 13-8 victory over the Runways. Gareth Owens hit a 180 and Ashley Baker hit a 100 out shot.

The Cwm Talwg had a comfortable 16-5 home win over the Mariners while the Billy Ghosts remain on top of the league with a 13-8 away win over the Park Weasels.

The Dockers were away to the Wanderers and had a 13-8 win, with Nicky Williams hitting a 180, and the Plastics won 18-3 away to the Loungers.

RL

Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday January 20, there was a big turn out to support the players competing in the semi-finals and final of the Clive Blick Trophy at the Old Post.

The winners were Trish Kinman, Steve Simmonite and Cedric Simmonite (Edmondes A) who defeated Maureen Fleming, Nigel Thomas and Robert Jones (Farmers Arms) 3-1 in the final.

The losing semi-finalist were Sally McCaver, Rob McCaver and John Izzard (Hare & Hounds) and Richie Williams, Joan Burt and Amanda Hole (Old Post Ladies and Edmondes 'C').

Present league standings after 12 matches, are: Llanharry (88 points), Edmondes B (64), Edmondes A (59), Highwayman Inn (55), Hare and Hounds (53), Farmer's Arms (45), Edmondes C (42) and Old Post Ladies (24).

On Tuesday, Feburary 3, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes A hosts the Hare and Hounds, the Old Post Ladies hosts the Edmondes B, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondes C and Llanharry hosts the Farmers Arms. All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

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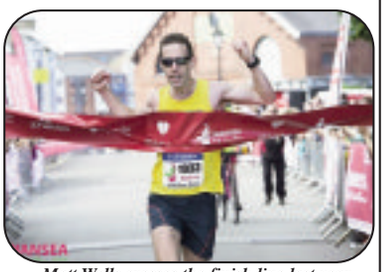

Matt Wells crosses the finish line last year.

THE winner of last year's JCP Swansea Half Marathon, Matthew Wells from Bridgend, is urging runners, keep-fitters and complete beginners to join this year's event on Sunday, June 14.

Matthew, a member of Bridgend Athletics Club, completed last year's course in one hour, 14 minutes and 39 seconds – a time he plans to beat in June.

The new improved route will set off from the heart of the city centre, starting on Oxford Street, before taking in a lap of the Kingsway, running past Swansea Castle, down Wind Street, before heading along Mumbles Road and turning at Knab Rock.

Matthew said: "One of the things that is so enjoyable about events like the JCP Swansea Half Marathon is that you have elite athletes at the start line along with people who are there to enjoy the atmosphere and the fun of it, and people who are doing their bit to support some very good causes."

Matthew, aged 30, is a family lawyer based at Swansea's JCP Solicitors, who put their weight behind the annual run by signing up as principal sponsor.

To sign up to this year's JCP Swansea Half Marathon go to: www.swanseahalf marathon.co.uk.

News from the Sully Centurions

IT may be still be winter but Sully Centurions cricket club are already gearing up for the new season, which will be the club's 60th anniversary year.

On Thursday, January 29, the club holds its annual general meeting at the Seashore Grill, Sully, commencing at 7.30pm. All members are urged to attend to have a say in the running of the club.

The pre-season indoor nets start on February 3 at the newly opened Four Squares Sports facility on Penarth Road, Cardiff (next to the Hyundai showroom); juniors 6pm-7pm, seniors 7pm-8pm. Anyone interested in joining the club, senior or junior, is cordially invited to attend these sessions.

The club has also been informed of the draws for the Welsh Cup and the National Village Cup for the 2015 season - Village Cup (Sunday, May 17) at home against Pentyrch CC, where the winners will host Ynystawe CC in the next round, and in the Welsh Cup (Sunday, June 7) we are at home against Ponthir CC.

Finally, congratulations to the club's welfare officer, Jemima Sylvester, on two fronts - firstly, for passing the 'safeguarding children' course with flying colours, but most of all for the announcement of her engagement to Ross - all at the club send their best wishes.

MF

Sully Bridge Club results

MONDAY, January 19:

North/South - 1st Trish Tracy/Mike Hurst 60.19, 2nd Pat Walker/Beryl Marke 54.40, 3rd Judy Collins/Shirley Powell 53.24. East/West - 1st John Pikoulis/Anne Johns 73.15, 2nd Peter Millar/Jane Brook 69.44, 3rd Anne MacDougall/Anne Hilary Jones 56.02.

Wednesday, January 21: North/South - 1st Carol James/Alan James 59.47, 2nd Jane Greatrex/Mair Colley 58.90, 3rd Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 58.90. East/West - 1st Celia Thomas/Huw Thomas 64.20, 2nd Anne MacDougall/Anne Hilary Jones 63.45, 3rd David Hopkins/Carol Cochlin 60.61.

Saturday, January 24: North/South - 1st Joan Thomson/Sheilagh Kavanagh 57.00, 2nd Jane Greatrex/Anne Hilary Jones 53.50. East/West - 1st Una Gavin/Brenda Shepherd 54.00, 2nd Peter Craig/ Hazell Craig 53.00.

EK

Barry Atoms and Cowbridge in a real thriller

THIS game between Barry Atoms under-12s and Cowbridge was a real thriller and pleasure to watch on a heavy pitch.

This Barry side is coming of age and although there was a magnificent solo try scored by Rory, this was a team display - they stood up and were counted. Final score: Cowbridge 10, Barry Atoms 7.

Squad: Couchy, Rhys, Jamie, Harry, Eski, Mason, Connor, Fin, Rory, Zak, Cai, Taylor, Iestyn, Anton, Norm, Ben, Ethan, Jack L, Jack R, Meg.

DD

Barrivale bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 20:

1st Mike Close & Denis Mottram 67.08%; 2nd Mark Roderick & Kay Dyer 66.25%; 3rd Simon & Debbie Richards 56.67%. Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

The Barry & District mens skittle league

DIVISION 1:

49'ers (M.Could 30) 300, Bunker Boys (A.Jeynes 29) 284; Barry Park 'B' (R.Freeman 28) 268, Geest (L.Galsworthy 27) 273; Blue Monkey (T.Clode 28) 266, Ex-Servicemen (G.Dent 28) 267; Geest (L.Galsworthy 33) 289, Park Lads (I.Twaddle 31) 271; Park Rangers (G.Bennett 28) 274, The Merrymen (M.Davies 31) 271; Park Lads (D.Morgan 28) 270, The Hairy Lemons (T.Linney 30) 260; The Merrymen (M.Davies 29) 49'ers (J.McInery. J.Yarr 31) 315; West End Stars (D.Grigg 29) 267, Cavaliers (B.Stephenson 30) 260.

Division 2:

Barry Social (T.Richards 29) 259, Abercrete (D.Arnold, J.Arnold, R.Mountjoy 24) 238; Exiles (A.Collins, G.Mitchell, T.Williams 26) 256, Road Runners (A.Guppy 28) 265; Posties (I.Jones 30) 267, Tynny Fliers (M.Kirke 28) 259; Sea View (K.Pycroft 31) 293, Tynewydd Lads (D.Sluman 34) 276; The Royalists (J.McEwan 32) 324, Witchill Wizards (A.Butler 27) 262; The Royalists (G.Evens 28) 286, Tynewydd Lads (D.Kerslake 29) 288; Willie Wombles (P.Jefferies 28) 265, BP Breakaways (P.Garsiner, J.Mills 27) 277; Tynewydd Lads (Sluman 31) 286, Witchill Wizards (C.Wylam 29) 296; Witchill Poachers (D.Richardson 38) 335, Buffs Exiles (I.Dowdere 36) 342.

Division 3:

Billy Whizz (J.Falligia 28) 266, The Rejects (P.Edgar 31) 272; Cannon Balls (D.Pike 33) 308, West End Fliers (R.Green 33) 319; 'H' Bells (T.Mullins 30) 293, Castle Boys (J.Adams, N.Hughes 27) 262; KP Monkeynuts (K.Payne 32) 283, Billy Whizz (T.Hunt, D.Miller 24) 255; West End Fliers (T.Clements 28) 264, British Rail (R.Wheeler 31) 259.

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57 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8 SRi 5-Dr In silver, 68,000 mile family hatch **£3,495**
07 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style Climate 3-Dr In met-blue, 79,000 miles **£3,495**
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Brian's (point-to-point) blast from the past!

I was surprised by the number of references to point-to-point riders who hailed from the Vale I come across when looking through one of my many press cutting books from the 1970s.

The first one dealt with Bonvilston farmer Tudor Harris and, under a picture of him riding a horse called *Pipplepen* to victory, I told how Tudor had ridden his first winner at the age of 16 on a horse called *Old Beauty*, a 33-1 outsider at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases.

The next clipping told how Bridgend butcher David Oakes, who had been associated with Hereford's Bill Bryan and horses Prince Abbyss, Jim Lad and *General Imp*, had split and how he would from then on be riding on the Welsh hunt-racing circuit.

There was also a reference to Aberthin farmer Ross Farr, the then reigning Welsh champion rider who had bought from Peter Cundell's yard a horse called *Etruscan King* on which he had won three point-to-point races in the west Wales area.

Another cutting, dated February 28, 1977, under the heading '16-1 Gary Top Of The Form' revealed how Gary Perkins, a 16-year-old pupil of Pencoed Secondary School, who was having just his second ride in public, rode 16-1 chance *Fleetwood* to victory at the Tivyside Hunt Steeplechases.

Another heading reads 'Housewife Bags A Double' and this was in reference to local trainer Evan Williams' mother Mary Williams, who had ridden a double at the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases at St Hilary.

Mary took the members' race on *Rory M* and later the ladies' open race on the towering *Underhill* which beat Wales' most famous point-to-pointer *Mandryka* by three lengths after taking the lead at the second last fence.

Also in the news was Coychurch's Paul Hamer, a 17-year-old welding apprentice, who chalked up his first winner on Dillwyn Thomas' *Cefn Soloman* at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point.

Paul went on to greater things, including winning a hunter chase at Sandown Park on his brother Geoffrey's *Yellow Jersey*.

Then there was my story of Cowbridge's Anne Williams, celebrating her 21st birthday one day early when winning the ladies' open race on her father Ted Williams' *Channel Ten* at the Gelligaer Farmers fixture.

The legendary Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn appears in many of my scrapbooks but on this occasion we will only give him one mention.

It was at the Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point at Howick, near Chepstow, that John, riding a horse called *Cloud Castle*, whose owner Mrs Jean French had rescued from the slaughterhouse, scored an impressive win in the men's open race when beating the much thought of *Master Straight*.

One of the funniest items was about David Williams standing on top of the second last fence at St Hilary after being unseated by his mount *Saravant*. Amazingly he went on to win the race, and if you know how he managed to do so then please let me know, as I have forgotten.

Please e-mail your point-to-point memories/news to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

TOM'S JEDFOREST WINNER

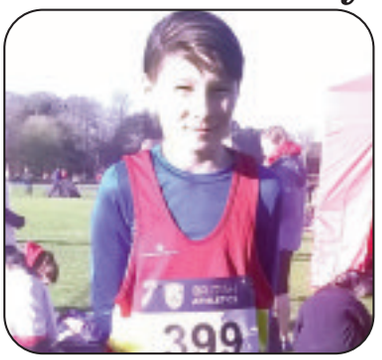
Tom David from Llanharan, who is assistant trainer to Zara Phillips, landed the men's open race at the Jedforest Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on *Woodview Prince*, who came home six lengths ahead of *Cave Hunter*.

Meanwhile, at the Tiverton Hunt Point-To-Point at Chipley Park, *Silver Token*, partnered by Harry Cobden, and owned and trained by David Brace of the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend, was a 2-1 winner of the club members' race.

The mixed open race here was won by 12-1 chance *Parkam Jack* who, ridden by Welsh champion rider John Mathias, beat the odds-on favourite *Certain Flight,* ridden by Will Biddick.

BRIAN LEE

Cross country season test for pupils



Jack Blackmore (year-8) represented Barry Comprehensive in the Cardiff Cross Challenge.

Joseph Hewings (left) finished in third place in the under-17 men's event.

TWO Barry Comprehensive School students represented the school in the Cardiff Cross Challenge for Cardiff and the Vale Schools on Sunday, January 17.

Jospeh Hewings (year-10) and Jack Blackmore (year-8) ran extremely well, with Jack finishing in 45th place in the under-15 boys schools event and Joseph finishing in third place in the under-17 men's event.

It was excellent work by both in very tricky, muddy conditions.

AC

Quarks shock Phoenix to go top of the league

THE league table for division three of the East Glamorgan Chess Association is quite a surprise at the moment, because the Barry Quarks team are top of the league!

No, it's really true. The Quarks travelled to Pontypridd to play the Phoenix. They are the only team so far to have given us a hiding so the omens were not good.

However, with Kevin Gandy leading the team on board one, we returned with a 4–1 win. We won all three games with the white pieces and with black we managed two draws.

At the start of the season we were merely looking to consolidate and were almost expecting to be in a relegation battle. However, now it seems we have entered the race for promotion to division two.

Alas, it was not so good for the Camelots. All season, they have been at the top of the first division. However, they recorded a disappointing loss to the Cardiff Monarchs, 3–2.

Only Ashley Davis won his game and the rest of the team could only manage two draws and two defeats. The Camelots have now dropped to third in the table.

With the Cardiff Castles picking up four points, the Camelots are now 4.5 points off the pace and their title charge is faltering. They only have a further seven games to try to catch up.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

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Barry and District ladies skittles league

RESULTS for week commencing January 12:

First division: SV Gals (J Cannon 32() 281, Allsorts (C Griffiths 29) 274; Coppers (J Hartnell, J Williams 31) 325, Special Angels (L Brigham, C Thomas, L Mountford 29) 309; Barry Stars (M Richards 39) 320, Colcot Ladies (H Edwards 33) 312; Pila Palas (S Bennett 32) 295, Cigar Ladies (B Gough, G Wood 26) 242; Family and Friends (R White 25) 208, Bakers Dozen (N Martin 28) 254.

Second division: Witchill Widows (C Gregory 34) 324, Strikers (L Goodwin 31) 336; Roller Coasters (J Marriott 26) 202, Clickies (M Williams 28) 225; After Eights (E Tombs, P Mepham 30) 307, Bobby's Girls (B Macdonald 35) 292; SV Lights (D Masterman, D Thomas, N Alsop 28) 293, Castle Bandits (D Collard 31) 296; Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan 26) 253, Breakaways (L Smith 26) 239.

Third division: Airways Angels (A Crook 27) 250, Rhoose Ravers (M Griffiths 28) 260; Jolly Dollies (M Enticott, C Thomas 27) 213, Witchill Wanderers (C Nicholson, L Selby 23) 199; Westenders (J Jeynes 31) 269, Rugby Triers (M Wilson 29) 210; Hill Billies (Moorcraft 33) 325, SV Ladies (R Leach 33) 310; Dolly Mixtures (T Rowsell 22) 191, Lil's Devlls (J Jones 26) 215; Persuaders (E Gardner 28) 228, Etcetera (M Grasby 26) 222; Friends and Neighbours (L Williams 30) 257, Merry Maker (C Hatcher, T Lesimere, C Rowles 28) 290.

Fourth division: Rebels (L Spurr 21) 194, Odd Bods (N Williams 23) 197; Twilights (C Kaged 23) 212, Railway Rogues (C Rogers 24) 202; Off The Rails (J Davies 23) 170, Challengers (L Morgan 28) 235; BFFs (L Howells 25) 208, Wyndham Witches (Y Cumau 23) 222; Fallen Angels (N Edwards 31) 281, La Belles (N Cordy, S Peacock 25) 226.

Fifth division: Liberals (K Palmers 31) 266, Barry Ravers (L Hodder, J Gough 25) 226; Socialites (J Fumis 29) 263, Aristocats (A Scott 31) 261; Billy Bunters (G Loveless 27) 244, Guardian Angels (S Aston 30) 182.

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Barry take the spoils in Vale derby clash against Cowbridge

Action from Saturday's encounter between Cowbridge RFC and Barry RFC. PICTURES BY HOWARD POOLE.

AFTER a frosty start to the week, Cowbridge entertained undefeated Barry at the Athletic Field in sunshine and in an entertaining game lost 12-31.

Only two minutes into the game, young Alex Guard at full back was hit hard as he fielded a high ball but after attention he bravely carried on.

On eight minutes Barry moved the ball left 10 metres out and their outside centre found a gap to score a converted try; three minutes later Cowbridge had a penalty chance that second row Kyle Jones put just wide.

On 19 minutes Barry moved the ball right to free their right wing and he went over for an unconverted try, but it was by no means all Barry - Cowbridge were moving the ball well and showing good hands.

Barry again put up a high ball and again their inside centre came flying through, dislodging the ball which was then hacked on for their fast openside flanker to beat the defence for a converted try.

Just before half time Barry moved the ball left for their left wing to cross. Although the score was 0-24 at halftime it didn't feel like it. Cowbridge had played well but crucially Barry took every chance they had.

Cowbridge were playing four players from the youth and each was marking his mark. In the second half Dai Breed came on for Jon Phillips but was only to last 15 minutes.

The game swung back and forth but on 12 minutes as the ball was moved right an offload out of a tackle saw Barry's full back cross for a converted try. But that was their last score.

When Dai Breed came off passive scrums were ordered. Dan Holder at No 8 and wing Dan Evans gave way, after excellent performances, to Tom Cunnington and Tom Johnson.

At the midpoint a long midfield pass was intercepted by wing Tom Harrison to outstrip the defence from 75 metres. He dropkicked the conversion.

Geraint Thomas came on for hardworking Ben Worrell and Rhys Price came on for hooker Connor Boys.

On 25 minutes, from a ruck, livewire scrum half Adam Dix fed flanker Luke Boys who slipped a pass to Price to squeeze in at the corner. On 32 minutes a great last-ditch tackle by Guard prevented a certain try.

The last 15 minutes were all Cowbridge and although they deserved another score the final whistle went at 12-31.

Barry are a good team and in their outside half and loose head prop they had two outstanding players. But Cowbridge also played well and won the second half 12-7.

Hywel Davies showed up well on his debut but the afternoon was all about the young players, each playing well, but with Adam Dix just shading it with his excellent pass, tacking and all action style.

The BD youth team had a great win away at Llanishen, 15-27. Scorers were centre Cam Gibbon, full back Jon Hexmand, flanker Luke John and scrum half Hywel Williams. Iestyn Jones converted two tries and added a penalty.

In a good team performance Cam Gibbon shored up the midfield, No 8 Scott Griffiths carried and offloaded well and Peter Anderson ran straight and hard.

This Saturday the 1st XV are away at Llandaff, in another crucial game. All available players are asked to report for duty.

The BC youth team are at home to Penarth and BD team away to Llantwit. Three great games, with kick off at 2.30pm - all support would be very welcome.

RV/RK

Winner Brian Jones being congratulated by society captain Mike King, joined by Ray Howells who finished third.

Christmas at last for the Farmers!

FOLLOWING two postponements due to the wet weather, the Christmas meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was finally played last Friday at RAF St Athan Golf Club, which, considering the atrocious weather conditions that had prevailed for many weeks, was in excellent condition.

With the majority of competitors complaining they had not seen their beloved golf clubs since the society's last meeting in November, it came as no surprise to see low scores being returned with only society vice-captain Brian Jones playing better than his handicap.

Scoring 38 stableford points and finishing seven points ahead of his nearest rival and close friend Dai John, this was a magnificent achievement for this legend of Llantwit Major, now combining his busy farming activities with part-time security work on his large estate.

Ray Howells with 30 points finished third just ahead of Chris Rooney who scored 28 points to finish fourth. Martyn Edwards, also with 28 points, finished fifth and Chris Watson with 27 points finished in sixth place.

Nearest the pin on the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant sponsored par three holes were John Caines, Dai John, Martyn Edwards and also Aubrey Bowen, who also collected the very special 'over 80' prize, seeing off the challenge of the only other competitor in this category, Glyn Watts-Jones.

John Caines collected the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored longest drive prize and Keith James collected the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey when correctly guessing 19 balls would fail to return home.

This resulted in £200 being raised for Velindre Hospital in memory of the late Mr Willie Morgan, a founder member and past captain of the society who sadly passed away before Christmas.

Members are back in action today (Thursday) when they travel to play the Swansea Bay Golf course and the quality prizes supplied by generous sponsor Mr Gino Cocco of Llanharan Concrete Ltd.

Unfortunately Gino will not be in attendance due to a recent fall resulting in fracturing his elbow and wrist. Members wish Gino a speedy recovery, and also his dear wife Audrey much patience as she looks after her husband of over 60 years.

TMcC

Win for Llantwit Major

ON a dry winters day, Llantwit Major made the journey across to Llandaff North and Hailey Park for what was a keenly contested game from the kick off.

The game flowed end to end as both sides used sheer brute force up front to secure the ball before shipping the ball wide at every opportunity, which is a credit to the grass roots game.

With such a ferocious intensity the penalties mounted up and it was from one penalty that outside half Chris Fowler slotted three points for the visiting side. Late in the first half Llantwit had the biggest opportunity to cross for a try after a break by Wasiau Vackegu saw him offload to fellow centre Steff Price who made some good yards before being brought down.

Unfortunately for Llantwit the next score came from the home side, with a try that went unconverted.

The second half started the same as the first, Chris Fowler had an opportunity to take the lead with a penalty and he duly obliged to take the score to 5-6 to the visitors.

Just before the final whistle Llandaff North set up wave after wave of attack only to spill the ball. It was hacked upfield by Llantwit and Rhys Balmont stripped the defence but had to hack the ball on again as it would not sit up for him.

He managed to get a hand to it the second time but was unable to score and the ball found its way to Steff Price who flopped over underneath the posts for the decisive score that was converted by Chris Fowler; the conversion was vital as it took away Llandaff North's losing bonus point.

NE

Comfortable win for the under-11s

COWBRIDGE under-11s produced an impressive opening period against visitors Barry to set up a comfortable victory.

Despite scoring the opening try the visitors were on the back foot for much of the first period. Cowbridge moved the ball well across the backline and used good changes of direction to stretch the visitors' defence.

Winger Finley Sullivan was the first Cowbridge player to score and this was followed by Ruben Davies who added a second home try shortly afterwards. Cowbridge's other winger Iolo Davies was put over in the corner for the third try.

Cowbridge's fourth try was straight off the training ground as a lovely switch move from fly half Harry Treharne saw centre Davies cross the whitewash. A barging run from Rhys Ford saw a fifth try registered and the sixth try saw both props combine as Alfie Rees gave a lovely offload for Ford to score his second try.

The first period scoring was completed by centre Akka Guwy as he used all his strength to add the seventh try and put the home side well on top, leading 7 tries to 1.

With 24 players available Cowbridge put out a completely different side in the second period but still dominated.

Robbie Brown, playing in the unaccustomed position of centre, adapted well and broke the defensive wall to score a fine try. Fly half Steffan Evans produced a magical weaving akin to 10s of old to score an excellent individual try.

With the ball moved quickly across the backline winger Finlay Brace did well staying infield and finished an excellent back move for Cowbridge's third try of the period.

Barry gained a consolation try towards the end but Cowbridge were good value for their 10 tries to two lead. Some good back play was supported by good defensive work with Ben Hardy and Brown producing high tackle counts.

The last period saw Cowbridge rotate the two sides in the period but Barry came back well with the home side switching off slightly.

Barry opened the scoring with a good try but Cowbridge responded well through a great run by fly half Treharne following a switch with Hooker Ethan Francis.

Barry then had a sustained period of pressure and were able to score two tries from close range. Unfortunately, the match concluded on a sour note as winger Sam Payne was tripped with the line at his mercy, leaving the referee with no option but to award a penalty try and the guilty player having to leave the field.

Although the last period had seen Cowbridge not at their best, overall the 12 tries to five winning margin was a fair reflection on the home team's dominance over the whole game.

Squad: Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Archie Lloyd, Ifor Rees, Lewys Robins, Akka Guwy, Rhys Pritchard, Will Evans, Rhys Ford, Finlay Ball, Will Ryan, Ruben Davies, Sam Payne, Finlay Sullivan, Robbie Brown, Ollie Jones, Finlay Brace, Steffan Evans, Will Harris, Ben Hardy, Rhydian Williams and Harry Treharne.

MF

We welcome your sports news, reports and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk